



## **NITI Aayog releases a report on Water Budgeting in Aspiration Blocks to enhance local water security**

**Water Budgeting is a structured approach for estimating water demand across multiple sectors**

**18 aspirational blocks across 11 States covering multiple agro-climatic zones assessed**

**Customised recommendations and key takeaways for drinking water sustainability presented**

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NITI Aayog today released a report on “*Water Budgeting in Aspirational Blocks*”, marking a significant effort to take forward local water budgeting for effective water management. The report was released by the Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V. K. Paul. The report aligns with the Prime Minister’s vision for *Viksit Bharat@2047*, emphasising the necessity for sustainable and equitable water security across diverse landscapes of India.

Highlighting the key aspects of the report, the member suggested taking forward the exercise further to carry out steps involving community to improve the water availability situation through measurable outputs for better livelihood outcomes through access to water and resulting better health.

The water budgeting exercise uses a web-based platform Varuni to enhance the block-level water security planning and for an integrated water management. It provides a structured approach for estimating water demand across key sectors: human, livestock, agriculture, and industry, while accounting for supplies from multiple sources such as runoff, surface water, groundwater, and water transfers.

The report highlights the need for adopting customised strategies across 18 Aspirational Blocks with different endowments of water availability. These blocks, spread across 8 agro-climatic zones of the country in 11 States offered a window into the heterogeneity of water resources challenges.

The water budget provides insights for each block related to its water demand-supply scenario, challenges and recommendations and identifying suitable measures for enhancing water security. This diagnostic tool will help to shift to proactive water management aided by data driven approach.

As policies shift towards convergent approach for water resources management, digital governance and outcome based planning, tools like this holds the potential to become corner stone in India's broader transition to climate resilience and sustainable development.

Drawing insights from these Aspirational Blocks, the study integrates field-based analysis and data inputs through *Varuni*, a web-based water budgeting platform. The report will help in localising water budget preparation, identify hot spots in water consumption and plan for efficient water use before critical levels are reached for equitable distribution and ensuring resilience.

NITI Aayog collaborated with GIZ India to prepare the report. The launch event was attended by representatives from Central Ministries, National Institute of Hydrology, Centre for Water Resources Development, Government of Kerala, technical partner GIZ India and others.

The report can be accessed at [https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-11/Water\\_Budgeting.pdf](https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-11/Water_Budgeting.pdf)

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