

UN World Water Development Report 2023

March 25, 2023

In news- UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water released the UN World Water Development Report 2023 at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York.

About the report-

- The United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) is the UN system's principal authoritative report on water, providing decision-makers with the critical knowledge and the tools necessary to formulate and implement sustainable water policies and actions.
- **Launched annually on World Water Day (March 22nd), this year's edition, titled partnerships and cooperation for water,** is uniquely poised to inform and inspire the dialogues and deliberations scheduled to take place at the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- **The production of the report, funded entirely by the Italian government, is coordinated and published by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)** on behalf of the UN Water members and partners, and represents a shining example of the United Nations' delivering as one' partnership.

Key findings-

- According to the report, globally, 2 billion people (26% of the population) do not have safe drinking water and 3.6 billion (46%) lack access to safely managed sanitation.
- Between two and three billion people experience water shortages for at least one month per year, posing severe risks to livelihoods, notably through food security and access to electricity.

- The global urban population facing water scarcity is projected to double from 930 million in 2016 to 1.7–2.4 billion people in 2050.
- The growing incidence of extreme and prolonged droughts is also stressing ecosystems, with dire consequences for both plant and animal species.
- It said that nearly every water-related intervention involves some kind of cooperation. Cooperation is critical to achieving all water-related goals and targets. Inclusive stakeholder participation promotes buy-in and ownership.

Note:

- The UN will hold the UN 2023 Water Conference, the first of its kind event in the last 50 years, on March 22-24 in New York.
- It was co-hosted by the Governments of Tajikistan and the Netherlands with the support of UN-Water and the UNDESA secretariat .
- One of the main outcomes of the conference will be the adoption by the international community and stakeholders of Voluntary Commitments – which will be collected on the Water Action Agenda.

World Water Day –

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted World Water Day on December 22, 1992.
- The resolution was adopted, and thereon March 22 was declared to be celebrated as World Water Day. The first World Water Day Was observed on March 22, 1993.
- **The theme for World Water Day 2023 is “Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis.”**
- The theme emphasises the requirement for stern action to protect the world from the water crisis.