

Jal Jeevan Samvad

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Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives



Water for All:
Celebrating
Women Champions



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Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Today, the Jal Jeevan Mission is being widely discussed across the world. Through this initiative, water is reaching every village in the country. Over the past five years, piped water connections have been provided to 15.5 crore households across lakhs of villages.

To ensure the success of such a massive mission, we introduced Mahila Pani Samitis - women-led water committees - right here in Gujarat. Now, this model is being implemented nationwide. These Pani Samitis have played a crucial role, and it is Gujarat that has given this model to the country. Today, this initiative is helping to resolve the water crisis across Bharat.

- PM's speech at launch of development works in Navsari, Gujarat, 08th March, 2025

2013 में पीने के पानी के लिए कुओं तक जाने की मजबूरी थी, आज उसी योजना का है "हर घर नल से जल" योजना से मिल रहा है, यानी सिर्फ दशक ही नहीं बदला, बल्कि लोगो की जिंदगी बदली है।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी (TV9 Conclave, 28th March, 2025)

Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



Shri C R Patil

Minister of Jal Shakti

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jal Jeevan Mission and Jal Shakti Abhiyan are revolutionizing water management system

If ever a third world war is fought over water, India will not be a part of it. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we are building a water-secure future.

Today, due to PM's leadership, clean drinking water in adequate quantity is reaching citizens' doorsteps across India.

- During the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan-2025 at Panchkula on World Water Day, 22nd March, 2025

‘नल से जल’ योजना के पीछे माननीय प्रधानमंत्री सर का दूरदर्शी विजन है।

एक समय था जब ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की महिलाएं दूर-दूर से पानी लाने को मजबूर थीं। इस काम में उनका कीमती समय और ऊर्जा दोनों खर्च हो जाते थे। लेकिन आज, ‘नल से जल’ योजना के माध्यम से यह तस्वीर बदल चुकी है।

अब हर घर में नल से जल पहुँचने से महिलाएं अपने बचाए हुए समय को अपने बच्चों की देखभाल, परिवार की खुशहाली और स्वयं के विकास में लगा पा रही हैं। यह केवल पानी की सुविधा नहीं, बल्कि सम्मान और सशक्तिकरण की ओर एक बड़ा कदम है।

Shri C R Patil at TimeNow Conclave on 29th March, 2025

”



Foreword



Five years ago, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) set out to bring safe drinking water to every rural home in India. Today, over 15.5 crore rural households have tap water connections – a scale of delivery unprecedented in India’s rural water supply history. With access to clean water, families are healthier, communities are stronger, and opportunities are growing. From better health to improved socio-economic conditions, JJM is not just making life easier – it is enabling people to thrive.

Water is more than a resource; it shapes identity, opportunity, and resilience. Its availability determines who progresses and who is left behind. Jal Jeevan Mission is not just about installing taps; it is about correcting inequalities, ensuring that every household, no matter where it is, has access to water with dignity and security. Today, millions wake up to the certainty of water flowing through their taps – a symbol of equity, empowerment, and change.

Extending JJM until 2028 signifies that building infrastructure is only the first step – sustainability is the real challenge. Protecting water sources, strengthening local ownership, and instilling a deeper awareness of water as a shared responsibility must now take priority. The way forward is, therefore, more about changing mindsets.

This month, World Water Day 2025 drew attention to glaciers – critical water sources that are melting at alarming rates. Their retreat signals severe climate change crisis. In this context, water conservation is now more about survival. How we use, store, and value water must change, or we risk losing what once seemed endless.

At the Post-Budget Webinar 2025, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced a key message: real change happens when people drive it. A special session on JJM and SBM-G made it clear – water governance works best when communities lead, highlighting the need for *Jan Bhagidari*. People who conserve, protect, and manage water every day are true champions, leading the way towards a sustainable and equitable future.

This month also marked International Women's Day, a reminder of the crucial role women play in ensuring water security. Their leadership is bringing a deeper, lasting transformation, one that shifts power and builds resilience from the ground up.

Jal Jeevan Mission has challenged old hierarchies, restored fairness, and reshaped what access to water means. As we move forward, success should not be measured only in numbers but in the stories we change – stories of access, empowerment, and water that flows freely, without privilege deciding its course. Explore these stories in the pages ahead!

Shri Ashok K. K. Meena

Secretary,

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation





Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...



This month was special, filled with vibrant festivals and meaningful reflections, highlighting themes of renewal, strength, and hope. Holi, the festival of colours, reminded us to let go of past burdens and look forward with optimism. This same spirit guides Jal Jeevan Mission as we work to bring clean water to rural communities across India.

March had two other important days – International Women's Day on the 8th and World Water Day on the 22nd. Both days reminded us of the incredible difference that access to clean water makes and the crucial role women play in this change. Women, who once spent hours fetching water from far away, sacrificing their health and dreams, are now at the forefront of water management. They have become key decision-makers in VWSCs, leading community efforts and ensuring lasting improvements.

The impact of JJM goes far beyond providing taps and pipelines. It leads to healthier communities, fewer diseases, and significantly reduces the daily struggles women faced. With safe water available at home, rural women and girls can now focus their time and energy on education, learning new skills, and pursuing businesses, leading to greater social and economic empowerment.

These qualitative changes are also visible on the ground and a joint effort by DDWS and UNICEF has been made to document a few of such stories in a book titled "*Ripples of Change: Gender-transformative Rural WASH Programmes in India*". Launched this month by the Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri C.R. Patil, the book covers ten powerful stories of rural India. At the same event, the revamped website of DDWS was also launched. This new website follows the latest government guidelines, improving accessibility, trust and ease of use.

Earlier this month, I visited SPM-NIWAS in Kolkata to review our training programmes and the support we provide to communities. What impressed me most was not just the numbers but the genuine excitement and commitment to build stronger systems that empower communities with knowledge, skills, and independence in managing their water resources.

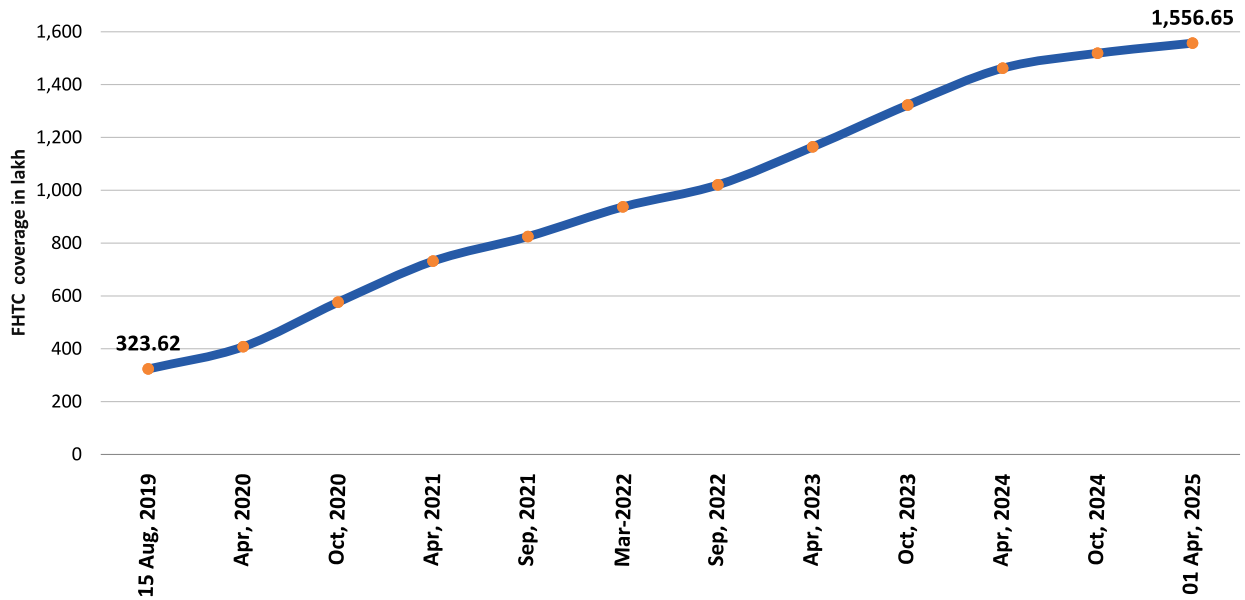
At its core, JJM believes that villagers know their water best and need only guidance, awareness, and resources to turn their challenges into opportunities. JJM strongly promotes community involvement, that is *Jan Bhagidari*, empowering local bodies and creating an environment where everyone shares responsibility.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to creating a future where every household has reliable, safe, and sustainable drinking water. We also aim to promote a culture of water conservation, hygiene, and community strength.

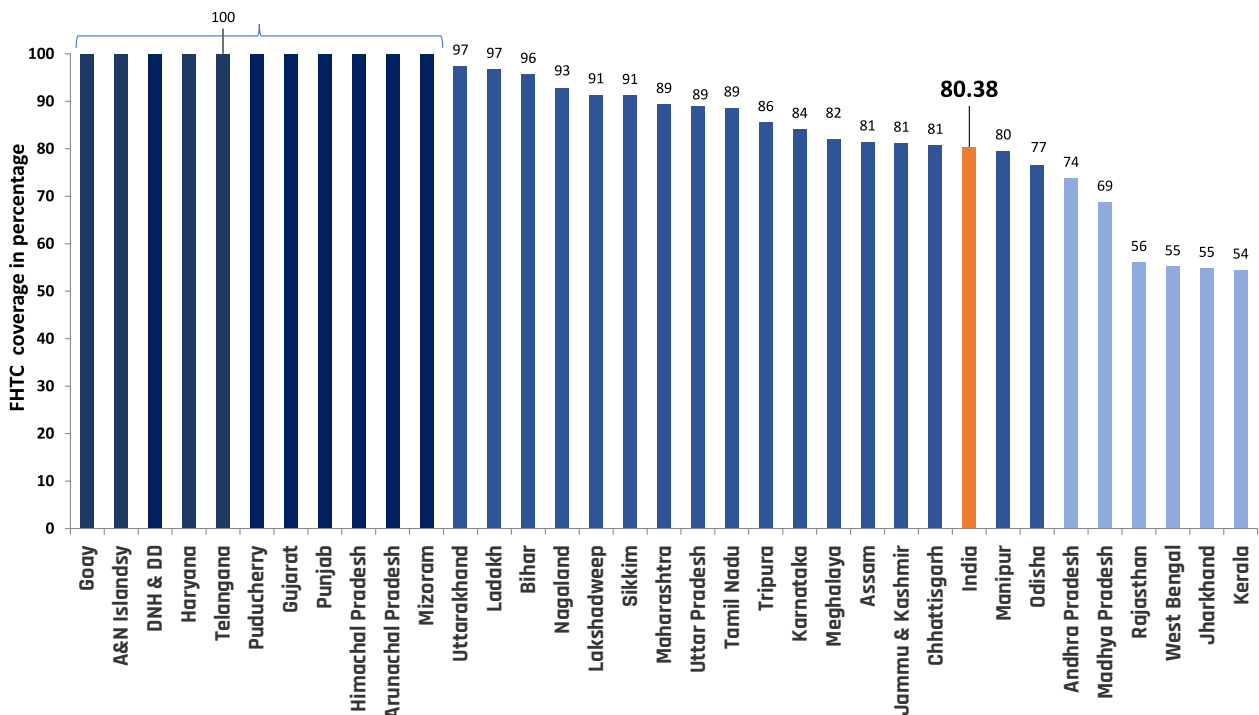
Wishing our readers vibrant days ahead, filled with health and hope!

Kamal Kishore Soan
Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NJJM)
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.03.2025)



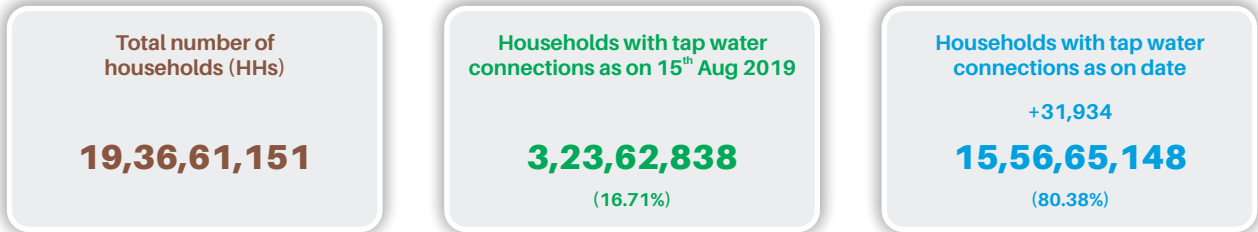
Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.03.2025)



As on 31st March, 2025

Source: JJM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes



Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,33,02,310 (76.44%)

Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

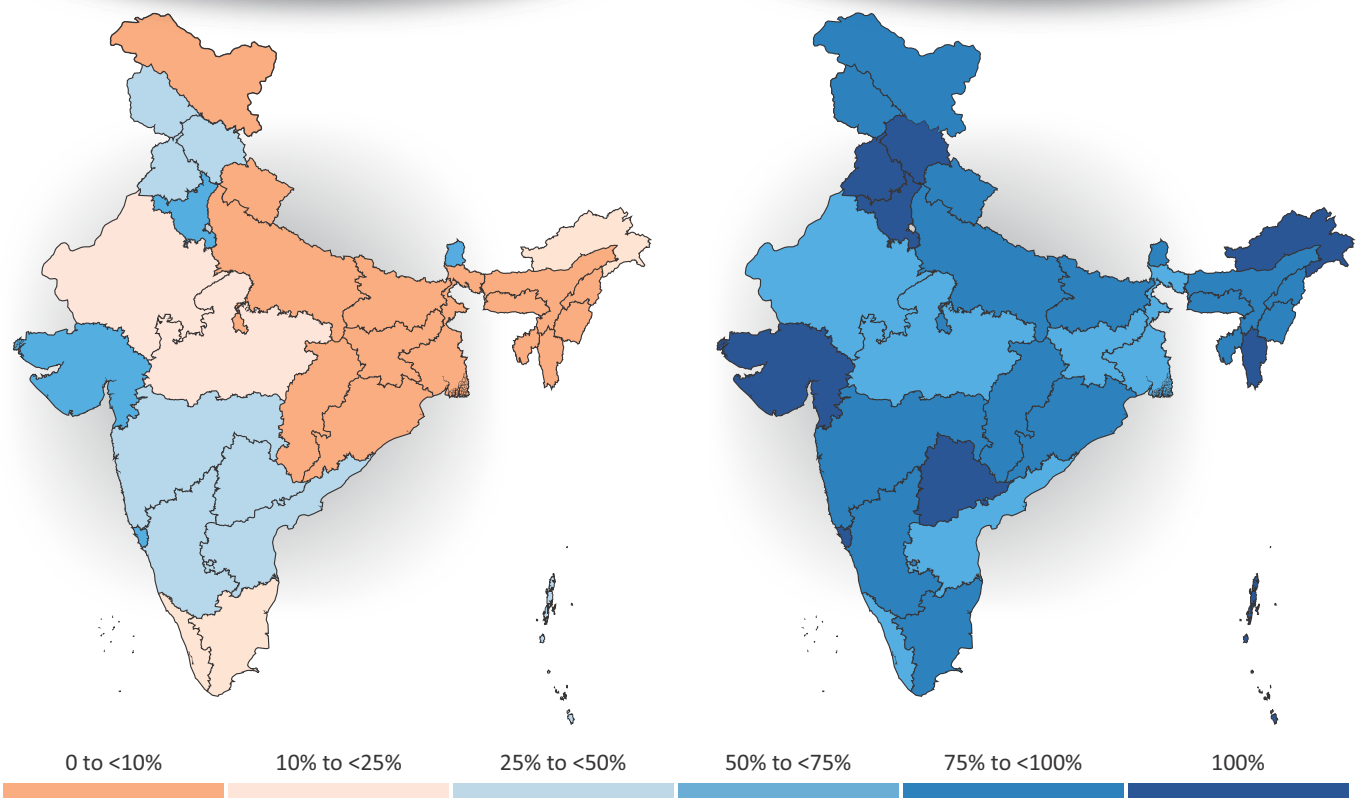
100% FHTC States/ UTs

Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat



As on 15th August, 2019

As on 31st March, 2025



Post Budget Webinar-2025

Investing in Economy

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM & Arpan Dey Sarkar, NPMU-NJJM

The Post-Budget Webinar 2025, under Theme 5 – Investing in Economy, was held digitally on March 5, 2025. This session was led by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and co-led by the Ministry of Tourism, with the break-out session on 'Jan Bhagidari in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) & Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G)' conducted by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS).



Addressing during the post-budget webinar, in his keynote Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the need to invest in people, the economy, and innovation to build a stronger future for India. He called upon all stakeholders to collaborate and work towards industry-oriented education, ensuring a skilled and empowered workforce.

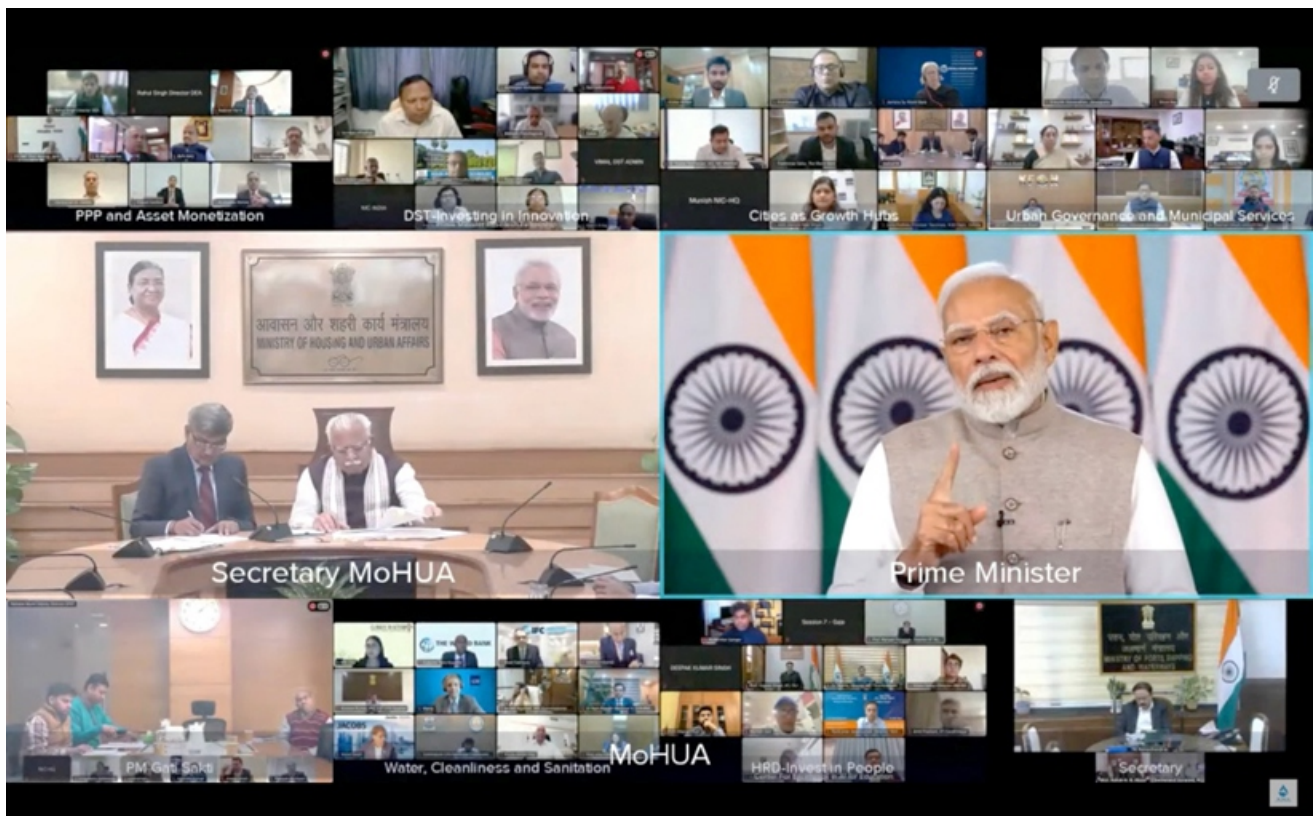


Figure 1: Hon'ble Prime Minister delivering keynote address | Source: Live webinar link



The Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive growth through community-driven initiatives, highlighting the crucial role of investments in infrastructure, sanitation, and water management in uplifting rural communities. Stressing the importance of Jan Bhagidari (people's participation), he urged collective efforts from the government, private sector, and local communities to achieve national development goals.

On water supply, the Prime Minister emphasized the need for collective efforts to advance programs like Amrit 2.0 and Jal Jeevan Mission, acknowledging the uniqueness of India's public participation model. He expressed satisfaction that such brainstorming initiatives are gaining momentum every year and reaffirmed his confidence in the power of collaborative decision-making to fulfill the aspirations of 140 crore citizens.

Session 5 - Investing in Economy- Jan Bhagidari in JJM & SBM G

This two-hour session was moderated by Shri Ashok K.K Meena, Secretary, DDWS, and featured three key panelists from government departments and sectoral experts:

1. Shri Syedain Abbasi, Special Chief Secretary, PHED, Government of Assam
2. Shri Alkesh Wadhvani, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), India
3. Shri VK Madhavan, Chief Executive, WaterAid India

Additionally, Shri Jitendra Srivastava, Joint Secretary & MD, DDWS, presented the Jan Bhagidari initiatives under SBM-G and outlined the way forward, while Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD, JJM, delivered the closing remarks.

The session emphasized the importance of community participation in achieving sustainable WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services. It highlighted the role of Jan Bhagidari in ensuring sustainable and inclusive water and sanitation services under JJM and SBM-G. The interactive panel discussion, attended by over 1,500 participants, provided valuable insights on local governance, behavioral change, and technology-driven solutions to strengthen India's water and sanitation sector. The participants are from States/ UTs (Rural Water Supply Department, SWSM, DWSM), Sector Partners, RWPF partners, etc. They have joined through social media platforms through the webinar link.

For a more in-depth understanding, watch the full session here: YouTube Live

https://youtube.com/live/ij_EQ44_KQQ?feature=share

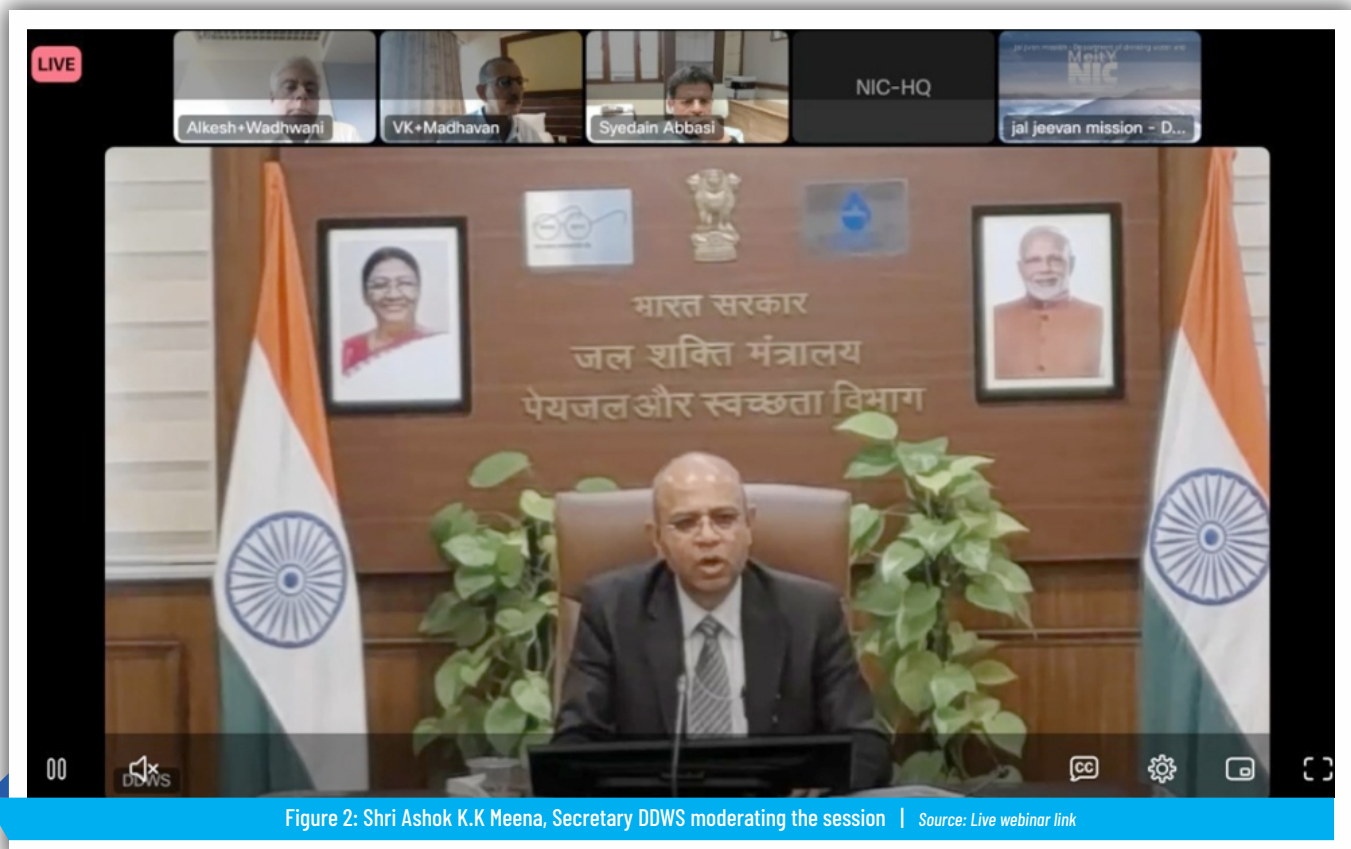


Figure 2: Shri Ashok K.K Meena, Secretary DDWS moderating the session | Source: Live webinar link

India and Nepal Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Cooperation in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector

- Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

The Government of India and the Government of Nepal today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector, including waste management. The signing ceremony took place at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of Shri C R Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India, and Shri Pradeep Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Water Supply, Government of Nepal.

On this important occasion, Water Supply Minister of Government of

Nepal Shri Pradeep Yadav The agreement aims to promote collaboration between the two nations and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation in the WASH sector, ensuring better access to clean drinking water and sanitation for their populations. The comprehensive MoU outlines a collaborative framework encompassing several key areas:-

- ◆ **Capacity Building:** Training programs for Nepali personnel in water resource management and related fields.

- ◆ **Technology & Knowledge Transfer:** Sharing of technological expertise and best practices between India and Nepal in WASH sector.

- ◆ **Groundwater Management:** Joint efforts in monitoring, assessment, and management of groundwater resources, including quality improvement, artificial recharge, and rainwater harvesting.

During the event, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil, highlighted India's significant achievements



Figure 3: Delegation from Nepal with Hon'ble Union Minister after signing of MoU on WaSH | Source: NJJM



under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in providing clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to all citizens. Shri Patil emphasized that this MoU reflects the shared commitment of India and Nepal towards public health, sustainability, and regional cooperation.

Hon'ble Minister of Water Supply, Government of Nepal Shri Pradeep Yadav, commended India's success in implementing large-scale clean

drinking water and sanitation initiatives. He stated that Nepal looks forward to learn from India's experience in these sectors and that Nepali officials will visit key sites in India to gain insights and best practices. He further proposed that regular meetings should be held to ensure steady progress and mutual exchange of knowledge.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from both countries, including H.E. Mr. Naveen Srivastava,

Ambassador of India to Nepal, and H.E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India, along with Secretaries Ms. Debashree Mukherjee and Mr. Ashok Kumar Meena, and other distinguished delegates.

This MoU marks a new chapter in the India-Nepal partnership, ensuring that both countries work together for the well-being of their people and for a sustainable future.

Source: Inputs taken from PIB Release



Figure 4: Government of Nepal Delegation with Union Minister, Jal Shakti and Ministry officials | Source: NJJM



Figure 5: Delegation of Nepal during field visit to Jal Jeevan Mission site at Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM

Ministry of Jal Shakti Launches 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan':

Catch the Rain - 2025' on World Water Day to Promote Water Conservation

- Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

On 22nd March, 2025 to mark the “World Water Day”, Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the Government of Haryana, launched the sixth edition of **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain - 2025** in Panchkula, Haryana. The campaign aimed to emphasize **water conservation and management through community participation** and innovative strategies and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 10,000 citizens,

stakeholders, and water sector professionals from across the country. The event was organised by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

This year's campaign themed “जल संचय जन भागीदारी: जन जागरूकता की ओर”, (Peoples' Action for Water Conservation - Towards Intensified Community Connect) underscores the importance of water security, rainwater harvesting, and groundwater recharge in the face of climate change and growing water challenges.

A major highlight was the nationwide virtual launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2025 across the country, with special emphasis on 148 focus districts. This was followed by the launch of the “Jal-Jangal-Jan: Ek Prakritik Bandhan Abhiyan” [Water-Forest-People: The Intrinsic Bond campaign], in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, aimed at restoring ecological connections between forests, rivers, and springs. During the event, AV films were also launched on these initiatives, under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, MoEFCC and Government of Haryana.



Figure 6: Jal Kalash Ceremony while launch of JSA:CTR 2025 campaign | Source: NWM



The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana; Shri C.R. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti; Smt. Shruti Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation & Water Resources, Haryana.

Shri C. R. Patil, Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti; highlighted that the transformative progress in India's water sector is a result of the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He re-emphasized, issues of water availability and quality were not part of mainstream national discourse. Today, due to PM's leadership, clean drinking water in adequate quantity is reaching citizens' doorsteps across India. He further underscored the need for recharging water sources, adding: "We often speak of धन संचय (saving wealth), but more important is जल संचय (saving water)." He reiterated that community participation is key, and true water security can only be achieved when every citizen contributes.

Several impactful projects were inaugurated under the umbrella of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR) and Swachh Bharat Mission–Grameen (SBM-G). These includes:

- ◆ Rainwater harvesting systems
- ◆ Borewell recharge projects
- ◆ Micro-irrigation initiatives
- ◆ Release of a Compendium of Best Practices under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Key infrastructure inaugurated under SBM-G includes:

- ◆ Community Sanitary Complexes
- ◆ Liquid Waste Management Systems
- ◆ Gobardhan Project
- ◆ Solid Waste Management Shed

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2025 has laid the foundation for an inclusive, strategic, and



people-driven approach to water conservation. On World Water Day, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of "हर बूंद अनमोल" (Every Drop Counts) and moved decisively toward a secure and sustainable water future under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Source: Inputs taken from PIB Release



Figure 7: Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti and Hon'ble CM, Haryana with exhibitors at event | Source: NWM

From Bundelkhand to the UN House, A Story of Change created by Women Water Warriors

- Madhuri Shukla, Communications Associate, UNOPS India and Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

When women take the lead, change becomes possible!!

Ahead of International Women's Day 2025, history was made at the UN House in New Delhi. Five extraordinary women from the water scarce and drought-prone Bundelkhand region, trained by under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), stood before global experts, and development leaders. They weren't just attendees—they were speakers, sharing their personal journeys of transformation from water seekers to water guardians.

These women, once burdened by water scarcity, are now leading a revolution in water governance. Their

efforts, supported by JJM and UNOPS, have not only ensured clean drinking water for their communities but have also become a beacon of inspiration for others worldwide, yes from Water Crisis to Global Recognition.

For decades, Bundelkhand's parched lands told a story of hardship. Women walked miles in scorching heat to fetch a single pot of water. Education, income, and health all took a backseat to this endless pursuit.

“

“We spent half our lives carrying water. By the time we finished, there was no time left for anything else, (‘हमने अपनी ज़िंदगी का आधा हिस्सा पानी लाने में बिता दिया। जब तक काम पूरा होता, और कुछ करने का समय ही नहीं बचता था’)

recalls Bharti from Bamer village, Jhansi.

”

The event underscored the theme of **“For All Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment.”**, highlighting the importance of gender-inclusive development in water resource management. These women shared their inspiring stories of empowerment, showcasing how their active participation in water governance has improved health, hygiene, and community resilience. They not only narrated their struggles but also demonstrated their expertise in water testing, showing how community-driven action can achieve sustainable development goals.

For the women of Sijwaha village in Babina block, Jhansi district, who had been struggling with water scarcity for years, the Jal Jeevan Mission brought a new ray of hope in 2019. But merely dreaming was not enough—someone had to take the



Figure 8: The water warriors demonstrating water testing using FTK at UN house | Source: UNOPS India





initiative to turn it into reality. That responsibility was taken up by Sheela, a determined woman from the village.

Sheela resolved that clean, safe, and high-quality water would reach every lane and every household in the village. With support from UNOPS, she learned water testing techniques and started regularly testing the water every six months.

The recognition these women received on an international platform is not just a personal victory—it is a milestone for rural India. Their journey from struggling for water to influencing global conversations is proof that women are not just beneficiaries of development; they

are the architects of change. As the world celebrated Women's Day, these women left a powerful message: Water is not just a resource; it is a right, a responsibility, and a revolution led by women. Jal Jeevan Mission salutes the spirit of these women water warriors!

“

Sheela firmly believes,

“Quality water is not just a necessity; it is everyone's right. When women take the lead, change becomes possible.”

“गुणवत्तापूर्ण पानी केवल एक ज़रूरत नहीं, बल्कि सबका हक़ है। जब महिलाएं नेतृत्व लेती हैं, तो परिवर्तन संभव हो जाता है।”

”



Figure 9: Sheela Devi sharing her story | Source: UNOPS India



Figure 10: Women from Jhansi drumming for change with Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India | Source: UNOPS India

Transforming Lives: The Success Story of Abada Village under Jal Jeevan Mission

- Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi, MBE, Senior Program Director, Circular Economy &
Ms. Amarpreet Kaur, Project Officer-Communication & IEC, Centre for Environment Education

For years, Seremani Kashyap, a resident of Madpal Gram Panchayat in Jagdalpur Tehsil, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh, toiled in brick kilns and fields, striving to sustain her family. Like many women in her village, she yearned for a dignified livelihood but lacked opportunities to achieve it. Meanwhile, Madpal, like many rural communities, struggled with unmanaged waste—plastic littering chowpals, cow shelters, and streets, seeping into water sources, and contaminating the drinking water supply.

However, a transformative initiative has rewritten the narrative, empowering women like Seremani and strengthening the connection between waste management and access to clean water.

The situation began to change under Jal Jeevan Mission which envisions universal access to safe and adequate drinking water, recognizing that clean water is fundamental to health and dignity. However, plastic and other waste mismanagement threaten rural water sources, polluting groundwater, rivers, and community wells. Addressing this challenge requires integrated efforts, where water supply, sanitation, and waste management go hand in hand.

To tackle this issue, the District Administration of Bastar, in collaboration with HDFC Bank, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), and Shrishti Waste Management Services, launched the 'Rural & Urban Land-

scape Free of Dry & Plastic Waste' project. Implemented across 71 Gram Panchayats covering 114 villages, this initiative empowers women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to lead community-driven waste collection and segregation efforts, ensuring both cleaner environments and safer drinking water sources.

Empowering Women for Water Security through Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The initiative adopted a **community-driven approach** engaging **83 SHGs with 222 members** to lead waste collection and segregation efforts, while directly contributing to **cleaner water sources and healthier communities**. This created not just an efficient waste management system but also **sustainable livelihood**

opportunities for local residents, particularly women. The project catalysed women's leadership by providing them with essential skills and resources, motivating them to join Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Figure 2: *Safai Mitras with E-rickshaws in front of Material Recycling Centre (MRC)* Through this initiative, women received comprehensive training in waste management, including collection, segregation, and community outreach. Moreover, they were educated on the **critical link between waste mismanagement and water pollution**, enabling them to raise awareness among villagers and drive positive change.

Empowered with their new skills, Seremani and her fellow Swachhata Didis embarked on a door-to-door campaign across the village's 20



Figure 11: Seremani Kashyap driving E-rickshaw for waste collection | Source: CEE



Figure 12: Safai Mitras with E-rickshaws in front of Material Recycling Centre (MRC) | Source: CEE

wards, collecting waste daily and ensuring households adopted proper waste disposal practices.

By **preventing littering in waterbodies**, they played a crucial role in preserving water quality.

The collected waste is transported to a sorting shed at the Gram Panchório and then taken to the project-established Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for further processing. This initiative not only maintained cleanliness but also contributed to a healthier ecosystem and improved access to clean water for drinking and household use.

The waste collected by the SHGs is sent to the Swachh Centre, a state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Material Recycling Centre (MRC), for proper processing and

recycling. This effort was not just about maintaining cleanliness—it is directly linked to **preserving water quality**. By **stopping plastic waste from clogging drains and polluting water sources**, the SHGs contributed to a healthier ecosystem and improved access to **clean water for drinking and household use**. Notably, the Swachh Centre also provides safe drinking water, aligning with the Jal Jeeva Mission's (JJM) objective of ensuring a reliable drinking water supply for all, including Safai Mitras working on-site.

To enhance the efficiency of waste collection, District Administration of Bastar, under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, provided 82 e-rickshaws to the SHGs. These vehicles, designed to segregate dry and wet waste at the source, significantly improved operational efficiency while reducing

waste leakage into water sources. For Seremani and her group, the e-rickshaws became a valuable tool, enabling them to expand their coverage and serve the community more effectively. By ensuring proper waste disposal, preventing plastic pollution, and promoting water conservation, SHGs like Seremani's are playing a crucial role in achieving the twin goals of Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission.

A cornerstone of the project is its **transparent payment mechanism**, which ensures fair compensation for SHG members:

- 1. Systematic Linkages:** SHG members are formally engaged through an agreement with the Gram Panchayat, and the group begins waste collection after receiving an acknowledgment letter.
- 2. Efficient Weighing and Payment:** Waste collected by SHG members is weighed using vehicles equipped with electronic scales that generate instant receipts. Once the waste is verified and sorted at the MRF, any discrepancies in weight are communicated transparently to the group.
- 3. Direct Payment:** The revenue from the sale of recyclables is transferred directly to the SHG's bank account within a week, ensuring timely payment and transparency.

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Figure 13: E-Rickshaw provided by District Administration, Bastar | Source: CEE

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“This work has given me a voice and the confidence to create change. Every step we take in managing resources is a step toward dignity, independence, and a cleaner environment for our families and children.”

- Says Seremani

”

The Water Champion Papiya Ghosh led Kamdevbati's Water Revolution

- Md. Shahidur Rahman, Team Leader, DPMU Murshidabad, Shri Sudhir Mahara, IEC Specialist, Murshidabad
Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

In the remote village of Kamdevbati, Burwan, Murshidabad, West Bengal, where access to clean drinking water was once a distant dream, one woman's determination has transformed lives. **Smt. Papiya Ghosh**, the driving force behind the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), has emerged as a true champion of change under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Her unwavering leadership and commitment to water security have ensured a sustainable solution to the community's long-standing drinking water crisis.

For years, Kamdevbati's residents struggled with severe water-related challenges that is making their daily life struggle more arduous. High iron and arsenic levels in groundwater posed serious health risks, while the rugged Raarh terrain made water accessibility even more difficult. Local ponds and other water sources were heavily polluted, and the absence of proper water supply infrastructure forced residents to rely on distant tube wells and borewells, leading to **time consuming physical strain** especially for women and children who are forced to walk long distances to fetch water. Water scarcity not only led to health issues but also triggered conflicts and strained relationships among villagers over limited resources. Moreover, **a lack of awareness** about the importance of safe drinking water and hygiene resulted in the wide-



Figure 14: Smt. Papiya Ghosh addressing women group members | Source: DPMU Murshidabad

spread prevalence of **stomach ailments and other health issues**, exacerbating the community's hardships. Amid these struggles, Papiya Ghosh stepped forward to lead the village towards a lasting solution.

The implementation of JJM has ushered in a transformative era for Kamdevbati village, significantly enhancing the quality of life for its residents. With every household now equipped with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), access to clean and reliable water has become a reality. This has led to a notable decline in waterborne diseases, such as stomach ailments and skin infections, resulting in reduced healthcare expenditures for families.

The availability of piped water has also freed up valuable time, particularly for women and children, who no longer need to embark on arduous journeys to fetch water. This newfound freedom has enabled them to focus on education, employment, and social activities, fostering increased productivity and empowerment.

Moreover, women's empowerment has experienced a profound shift, as they are no longer burdened with water collection responsibilities. Instead, they can engage in self-employment, education, and community participation, leading to greater autonomy and social mobility.





Figure 15: IEC messages at visible places | Source: DPMU Murshidabad

To cement the sustainability of this transformation, VWSC and ISA workers conduct awareness programs and workshops, enlightening villagers on the vital importance of water conservation, sanitation, and wastage prevention. This collaborative approach empowers the community to actively maintain and safeguard their precious water resources, securing a brighter future for generations to come.

Papiya Ghosh played a pivotal role in mobilizing the community under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), ensuring every household received a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC). Through her guidance, the VWSC worked tirelessly to promote safe water use, hygiene, and conservation practices. Her leadership yielded notable achievements, including:

- ◆ The introduction of soak pits for efficient wastewater management
- ◆ Leveraging the 15th Finance Commission Fund to enhance sanitation infrastructure

- ◆ Establishing the '**Jal Bachao Committee**' to champion sustainable water practices

Papiya's dedication and visionary leadership have been instrumental in transforming the village's water management landscape, inspiring a culture of sustainability and responsibility.

JJM) has been a game-changer for rural India, and Smt. Papiya Ghosh's leadership has been instrumental in sustaining its benefits and promoting long-term water conservation. The formation of the 'Jal Bachao Committee' has played a crucial role in spreading awareness about the importance of water conservation, conducting regular awareness campaigns in schools, Anganwadi centers, and health clinics.

These initiatives have not only educated villagers on safe water use and hygiene but also encouraged households to build soak pits for better wastewater management, ensuring a cleaner environment. The effective utilization of the 15th

Finance Commission Fund has enhanced drainage and sanitation infrastructure, improving overall public health conditions.

A significant milestone achieved under Smt. Ghosh's leadership is the declaration of Ballabhpur village as a '**Swajalgram**' (Har Ghar Jal Village). To ensure water quality, ASHA workers and Panchayat Facilitators regularly test water sources, providing guidance to the community on maintaining safe drinking water.

In Kamdevbati, JJM's impact has been transformative. Access to safe drinking water has led to:

- ◆ A significant reduction in waterborne diseases, enhancing overall health and well-being.
- ◆ Improved quality of life, with reduced stress and struggles related to water collection.
- ◆ Strengthened community bonds, fostering trust and collective responsibility through cooperation in maintaining water infrastructure.

- Increased ownership and participation in water conservation efforts among villagers.
- Empowerment of women, who now have more time to pursue economic opportunities, education, and social development, driving positive change.
- JJM's success in Kamdevbati demonstrates the mission's potential to bring about lasting change, improving lives and empowering communities across rural India.

Today, Kamdevbati stands as a model of community-led transformation, with Papiya Ghosh at its helm. Her leadership, along with the collective efforts of VWSC, ASHA workers,

“

Smt. Papiya Ghosh shares,

নিরাপদ, নলবাহিত পানীয় জল দীর্ঘস্থায়ী জল পরিষেবা নিশ্চিত করে এবং দূষিত জল উৎসের উপর নির্ভরশীলতা কমায়ে। আমরা গ্রামীণ এলাকায় জল ও স্যানিটেশন পরিবর্তনের এই উদ্যোগের গভীর প্রশংসা করি। VWSC সদস্য হিসেবে, আমরা আরও সহযোগিতা করতে আগ্রহী এবং একটি সুস্থ কমিউনিটি গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে এমন উদ্যোগগুলির সমর্থন করতে প্রস্তুত।

("Safe, piped drinking water ensures a long-term water supply and reduces dependence on contaminated sources. We deeply appreciate this initiative to transform water and sanitation in rural areas. As VWSC members, we are keen to collaborate further and are ready to support such initiatives to build a healthy community.")

”

Panchayat officials, and NGOs, has made clean water a reality for all. Her story is a testament to how one woman's dedication can reshape an

entire village, ensuring a healthier, empowered future for generations to come.



Figure 16: Smt. Papiya Ghosh addressing women group members | Source: DPMU Murshidabad



Budhni Rani: The Water Warrior of the Hills

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM and Mohammed Sanaul Ansari, District Coordinator-IEC, Dumka -1, Jharkhand

In the heart of Dumka district of Jharkhand, a small village inhabited by a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) struggled with one of life's most basic necessities—clean drinking water. For years, the villagers depended on hand pumps, open wells, and nearby streams for their daily water needs. During summers, when the water levels dropped, their ordeal intensified. Women and young girls bore the brunt of this crisis, walking long distances to fetch water, carrying heavy pots on their heads, and often waiting in long queues at the few available water sources.

The situation was not just an inconvenience but a serious health hazard. Contaminated water led to frequent cases of diarrhea, skin infections, and other waterborne diseases. The lack of proper water facilities also affected hygiene, making even routine tasks like washing clothes, cooking, and maintaining personal cleanliness a daily challenge. Children often missed school due to illnesses, and the village remained trapped in a cycle of poverty and hardship.

Amidst these challenges, one woman decided that change was possible. Smt. Budhni Rani, a respected member of the community, took it upon herself to find a solution. She had seen firsthand how the lack of clean water affected families, especially women and children. Determined to bring about a transformation, she started mobilizing the



Figure 17: Smt Budhni Rani | Source: Dumka -1, Jharkhand

villagers, speaking to them about the importance of having a proper water supply system and how they could work together to make it happen.

Her journey was not easy. Many villagers were skeptical—after all, they had lived without a proper water

supply for generations. But Budhni Rani was relentless. She reached out to local officials, attended meetings called by Jal Nigam and PHED, and ensured that the village's water crisis was brought to the attention of the authorities. Her persistence paid off when the village was selected for a

“

“पहले हमे काफी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता था, हम मजबूर थे। पानी के लिए हम कुआँ और हैंडपंप पर निर्भर थे। घंटो लाइन में खड़ा होना पड़ता था, कभी कभी हमारे बीच पानी को लेकर लड़ाई झगड़े भी हो जाते थे। हम ये सोचा करते थे कि क्या कभी हमें इस समस्या से निजात मिलेगी, क्या हमारी बेटियाँ और आनेवाली पीढ़ी भी इसी तरह पानी के लिए संघर्ष करते रहेंगे? क्या कभी इसका अंत होगा?”

जल जीवन मिशन ने हमारे सपनों को संजोया है, अब हमारी बेटियाँ और आने वाली पीढ़ी को हमारी तरह पानी का बोझ नहीं ढोना पड़ेगा।”

- Budhi Rani

”

storage system, and ensuring that the water source was reliable and sustainable. A Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) was formed, with Budhni Rani playing a key role in guiding the villagers on how to manage and maintain the system.

For the first time in history, every household in the village had its own tap connection. No longer did women have to wake up before sunrise to fetch water. No longer did families have to worry about drinking contaminated water. The transformation was complete-safe and clean water now flowed directly into their homes.

The impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission in this village went far beyond just access to water. It changed lives in ways the villagers had never imagined:

piped water supply scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Government of India's flagship program aimed at providing functional household tap connections (FHTCs) to rural communities.

With the support of government officials, engineers, and community members, the project was set in motion. The first step was to lay down the necessary infrastructure - installing pipelines, setting up a water



Figure 18: Villagers at the site of PWS asset | Source: Dumka -1, Jharkhand



The Water Champion of Munni Bangri: Determined woman Anuarkshak sets the example by transforming the management of the water supply

- Pankaj Kumar, Manager Programme-Arghyam, Angad Kr Azad, Development Organizer, AKRSP(I)

Munnibangri is a small village nestled in the remote corners of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, in the block of Banda. The area stands out for its lush greenery, abundant mango and litchi orchards, and a community deeply rooted in agriculture. But it also faces a stark reality—of being a flood-prone area and, until recently, a dire shortage of clean and safe drinking water services. *Rupa Kumari's inspiring journey turned a crisis into a movement and gave her village the most essential service of sustainable, safe, and clean water availability for 176 households of Ward number 10 of Munni Bangri village.*

Access to clean water was once an everyday struggle for the households of this remote habitation primarily inhabited by SC and OBC households, followed by some general families, most of them are daily wage laborers and small marginal farmers. But thanks to the unwavering determination of one woman, that struggle is now a thing of the past. This is the story of Mrs. Rupa Kumari, a leader, a changemaker, and the woman who redefined grassroots leadership in her village.

Rupa Kumari took charge of water supply as an elected ward member in 2016, with water accessibility as her main agenda. She contested and won the ward elections. What followed was a relentless campaign to make clean water a basic right rather than a privilege, and then, an opportunity



Figure 19: Rupa kumari switching on PWS | Source: Arghyam

arrived—one that would change everything under the seven resolutions of good governance by the Govt of Bihar. The “Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal” Initiative was launched in September 2016. The Bihar government introduced the Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme, promising running water in every household. For Rupa Kumari, this was the moment she had been waiting for, but many challenges surfaced almost instantly. The first and foremost among them was the unavailability of suitable Govt land for installation of PWS. Rupa persuaded her husband and family members to donate their land for PWS installation. She has been instrumental in conducting regular WIMC meetings to make timely decisions on water supply issues and also conducted regular community meetings, and discussions on water issues in *Jal Chaupal*.

The project was implemented in her ward and on November 15, 2018, the water system was made officially operational. For the first time in history, every household had access to clean, running water. She also took up the role of PWS operator and efficiently performed all the daily operation tasks and maintained records of water supply, water quality testing, tank cleanings and committee and community meeting proceedings.

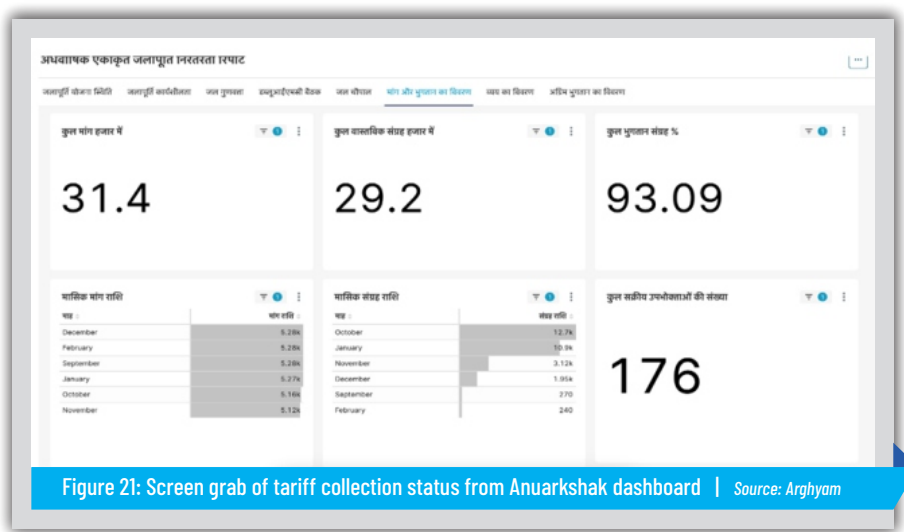
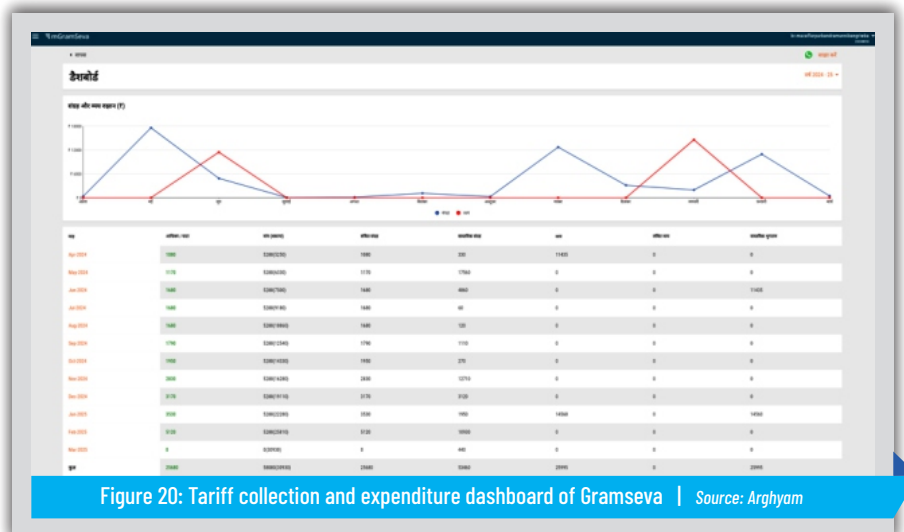
Rupa's work wasn't done with just setting up the infrastructure. She realized the importance of documentation and financial management, something she had never been exposed to, but thanks to civil society organizations like AKRSP(I), who trained and supported Anurakshaks on daily operations, record-keeping and financial management of PWS and maintenance planning to strengthen the PWS sustainability.

Journey from physical record-keeping to digital

Initially, when she took charge of organizing Jal Chaupals (community meetings on water issues) and maintaining proper financial records she had to take support from her husband. But slowly she became independent and also started using mobile phones to update records digitally. Her husband Gopal Kumar supported the effort, by helping her in tariff collection and ensuring that maintenance costs were covered. In her ward with improved service delivery.

Enthused by her relentless work, the beneficiary household reposed their faith in Rupa by electing her ward member again on January 2022, and they also support her by paying monthly water tariff charges regularly and wholeheartedly. Because of this, she collected more than 93% of water tariff demands in the last 6 months.

When power shortages threatened to disrupt the water supply, she convinced her family to invest in a generator for power backup; this arrangement has guaranteed 24/7 access to water for all the HHs of the



ward. Now, Rupa attends regular capacity-building and mentoring sessions delivered through the *iECHO* platform. She also uses the *Avni app* to update the daily operation reports of PWS and manages tariff collection on the *mGramseva* portal.

Rupa has set the example by managing the water supply efficiently for more than six years and impacted the lives of hundreds of women and children in her ward who have been facing the drudgery of carrying water from public handpumps before 2018, due to her work for the first time, women and girls now had time for themselves and have uninterrupted water supply within their premises.

They could attend meetings, engage in discussions, and participate in decision-making.

Ward Sabha meetings, once dominated by men, now had a significant number of female participants. Women started pursuing hobbies, education, and even small businesses—all because they no longer had to spend hours fetching water. A small change had transformed an entire community.

The Legacy of Rupa Kumari: A Woman Who Changed the Future Today, Ward 10 in Munni Bangri is a model of progress. Water is no longer a struggle, but a given service for which

they contribute regularly. At the heart of this transformation stands Rupa Kumari—a woman who saw a problem and refused to accept it as destiny. Her journey is a testament to how one determined leader can bring about lasting change. It's a story of courage, persistence, and the power of grassroots leadership. And perhaps, most importantly, it's a story of how water—something so simple—can empower an entire generation of women. *Rupa's story is a reminder that change doesn't always come from the top. Sometimes, it starts with one person, one vision, and one unstoppable spirit.*

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Figure 22: Women doing water quality testing using FTK | Source: UNICEF Madhya Pradesh



When Water Empowers: Monica Rani's Remarkable Journey

- Shailika Sinha, NJJM and Gurbaj Singh, Block Resource Coordinator, Farrukhnagar, Gurugram District

"There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise." – W.E.B. Du Bois

When women lead the way, societies change each day – Monica Rani is a vivid example of such a change!

In her village of Harinagar Duma, Farooqnagar Block, mornings once began with the relentless journey of women heading out to fetch water. Earlier, in village Harinagar Duma, there was a handpump near the Shiva temple, which villagers relied upon for drinking water. Collecting water from this single source consumed considerable time, yet it was insufficient to meet the villagers' daily water needs. Mothers balanced water vessels on their heads while their children walked alongside, often missing school or losing valuable hours of play and study.

Women would spend much of their day making repeated trips, the back-and-forth journeys consuming precious time, energy, and opportunities. It was a challenge that defined their existence, casting a shadow on their aspirations, dreams, and hopes for a brighter future.

With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August 2019, the village witnessed a significant transformation. By 2024, pipelines were laid throughout the village, ensuring every household received an adequate water supply.



Figure 23: Celebrating empowerment: Monica Rani honoured for changing lives through water initiatives | Source: PHED, Haryana

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Monica reflects warmly, “When water started flowing directly into our homes, it was more than convenience; it felt like regaining our dignity and freedom. Women were freed from endless journeys, bringing happiness back into our lives.”

“Water is precious,” Monica would often say, her voice resonating with sincerity and care. “As women, we understand its true value because we have carried its weight daily. We must ensure every drop counts, every drop is treasured.”

”





As an active member of the VWSC, Monica Rani played an essential role in promoting water conservation awareness. Her efforts inspired villagers, turning awareness into a powerful collective action. Gradually, awareness turned into action.

Monica and other VWSC members conducted regular sessions in schools, Anganwadi Centers, and community meetings, igniting enthusiasm among children, women, and elders to join hands in conserving water. They educated villagers about the significance of installing taps on previously open-running outlets, encouraging responsible usage and eliminating wastage.

Today, Harinagar Duma is vibrant, filled with hope and joy. The women who once bore heavy vessels of water now carry dreams and aspirations. Monica Rani's story is an example of profound changes that occur when women lead, showing that empowerment goes beyond mere convenience; it reshapes lives, restores dignity, and nurtures lasting prosperity.



Figure 24: Harinagar Duma's women ready to embrace a future of dignity, hope and empowerment | Source: PHED, Haryana



Figure 25: Villagers actively participating in a water-awareness meeting led by VWSC | Source: PHED, Haryana

Jal Jeevan Mission and Its Impact on Women



50% women representation in Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) ensures inclusive decision-making. It has also enabled women-led development.

24.80 lakh women trained in water quality testing, fostering community-driven accountability and empowerment.

According to a WHO study, universal tap water coverage can save **5.5 crore hours every day** in rural India, significantly transforming the lives of women, who bear the primary responsibility of managing water.

A recent SBI Research report highlights a significant reduction in rural deprivation, as **9 crore** women are freed from the burden of fetching water, enabling active participation in agriculture and allied activities, thereby boosting rural economies and women's workforce participation.

Empowered Women, Thriving Communities: Leading Change, One Step at a Time

- Tula Bardhan, State Manager, Andhra Pradesh, India Safe Water Program, Evidence Action

In the heart of rural Andhra Pradesh, two remarkable women—Smt. Kona Surya Durga and Smt. Lingala Baby Kumari are transforming their communities by taking charge of safe drinking water. Their journeys, marked by resilience and determination, showcase the power of women's leadership in ensuring health and progress for all.

To improve water quality through chlorination, Evidence Action, under the guidance of the National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, has installed a tablet-based In-Line Chlorination (ILC) device—a water disinfection system integrated into the water supply pipelines. This device has been implemented in multiple villages in Andhra Pradesh. This article tells the story of women from 2 of such villages.

From Tradition to Innovation: A Champion for Change – Smt. Kona Surya Durga, Pump Operator, Ensuring Water Safety

Smt. Kona Surya Durga, from Veerannagudem, nestled in Jangareddigudem mandal, Eluru district, has long been responsible for managing her village's water supply as a pump operator- the role traditionally held by the men in her family. With limited pay and physically demanding tasks, her job was



Figure 26: Smt. Kona Surya Durga, pump operator from Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh near ILC device | Source: Evidence Action

anything but easy. More critically, the traditional method of chlorination—manually adding bleaching powder to the overhead water tank—was both hazardous and labor-intensive. She had to climb approximately 25 stairs while carrying a bucket of bleaching powder, making it a physically exhausting. However,

everything changed in November 2024, as a pro-women mission 'Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal' collaborated with Evidence Action. With the support and guidance of NJJM and Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the ILC device was installed.

“

“Breaking into a male-dominated field wasn't easy, but I was determined to succeed. As a Pump Operator, I faced criticism initially, but my resolve to support my family and provide clean drinking water to my community kept me going. Thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission for empowering women like me to rise above challenges and shine!”

”



Breaking Barriers, Bringing Water: Women Driving Change

Surya Durga played a pivotal role in its installation as this device has Simplified water purification. Trained by Evidence Action, she learned to operate and maintain the device, ensuring her village has access to safe drinking water. Today, her efforts have significantly improved the health and hygiene of 220 residents across 55 households, while inspiring other women to take on leadership roles in the community. She has emerged as a symbol of resilience and leadership by successfully operating the newly installed chlorination device. Her journey is one of determination, overcoming challenges, and inspiring an entire community through her unwavering commitment to safe drinking water.

“

She shares,

“Previously, we had to mix bleaching powder in a bucket, climb up approximately 25 stairs, and pour it into the water tank. This method was dangerous due to the risks of climbing up and down. After the installation of the chlorination device, both the workload and time required have significantly reduced. Earlier, most household members were not interested in drinking tank water, but now, 95% of them are drinking it. The chlorination device has been very useful for our village, and we are happy about it.”

”

From Housewife to Water Guardian: Smt. Lingala Baby Kumari, a Beacon of Hope and Inspires Community Transformation

Similarly, in the village of K. Tadepalli, nestled within Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR district, Smt. Lingala Baby Kumari, a mother of two, faced financial struggles while caring for her ailing husband and working at a clothing store. Her family needed safe drinking water, which they had to purchase, adding to their financial burden due to the high cost of RO (Reverse Osmosis) water.

Amid these challenges, hope arrived when the Gram Panchayat, with support from Evidence Action, installed an ILC device. This transformed the community, providing safe, chlorinated water at no cost. For Lingala Baby's family, it meant better health and financial relief.

Baby Kumari didn't just benefit from clean water; she took ownership of the process. Learning from field coordinator Smt. Meena Kumari, she began inspecting the device daily, ensuring her village continued to receive safe water. Her dedication turned her from a housewife into a community water guardian, proving that true warriors emerge from everyday struggles.

“

She shares,

“I have many challenges in my family, but I am always ready to spare time for the betterment of the community because the community is also my family. Everyone deserves safe drinking water”

”



Figure 27: Smt. Lingala Baby Kumari from NTR district, Andhra Pradesh | Source: Evidence Action

Women Leading the Wave of Change: Safe Water, Stronger Communities

Both Surya Durga and Baby Kumari exemplify how women, when given opportunities, become champions of progress. Their leadership has not only improved their villages but also inspired others to step forward. Their message is clear and powerful: When women lead, Communities thrive.

These stories serve as a reminder that empowering women means empowering entire communities. One step at a time, they are proving that change begins with those who dare to lead.

This reflects the remarkable impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission in fostering community-driven change and participation. Both women are shining examples of how training has

empowered them—not only to operate the device but also to understand the benefits of safe drinking water. Now, they both actively raise awareness about safe water practices within their communities. Their stories highlight the transformative power of women's empowerment and community-driven initiatives.

*Copy Edited by
Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM*



Figure 28: Local village women stand next to the ILC device, discussing the benefits of clean water | Source: Evidence Action



Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
Government of India

Jal Jeevan Mission
&
Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen
are now on
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Guardians of Water: The Women of Balitara No. 1 Leading the Fight for Safe Drinking Water

- Kalpajit Kalita and Ankush Bhattacharjee, CML Tata Trusts

In the remote village of Balitara No. 1, nestled in Assam's Nalbari district, a remarkable revolution is unfolding. Five resilient women have stepped forward as champions of their community's well-being, boldly addressing a perennial problem that had long afflicted their village: the scarcity of safe drinking water.

The Challenge

Balitara No. 1, home to 2,811 residents, had a piped water supply system (PWSS) in place, but deeply ingrained cultural habits and lack of awareness led villagers to rely on untreated water for drinking as they don't like the test of chlorinated water. This resulted in widespread waterborne diseases.

The Rise of the Water Guardians

A group of five trailblazing women – Dalimi Rajbongshi, Himani Majumdar, Rumi Rajbongshi, Champa Kalita, and Babita Medhi – came together to form the Women's Field-Testing Kit (FTK) Group after receiving training from CML Tata Trusts under Jal Jeevan Mission. What began as basic water quality monitoring training blossomed into a



Figure 29: Dalimi Rajbongshi displays the iron test results, referencing the chart for accurate interpretation | Source: CML Tata Trusts

powerful grassroots movement, transforming the village's approach to safe drinking water.

From Skepticism to Acceptance

Undeterred by initial resistance, the women embarked on a tireless door-to-door campaign, spanning 240 households. With a determined spirit, they conducted on-the-spot water testing, revealing the contaminants lurking in the villagers' drinking water. This hands-on

“

“Initially, people weren't receptive,” recalls Dalimi. “They didn't understand why they needed to change their water habits when they'd been using the same sources for generations.”

”



Figure 30: Smt. Kona Surya Durga, pump operator from Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh near ILC device

approach dispelled doubts and sparked a newfound awareness, gradually winning over the skeptics.

“

“When people could see the test results with their own eyes, everything changed,”

explains Himani.

“We weren't just telling them their water was unsafe - we were showing them proof.”

”

Creating Sustainable Change

The FTK group went beyond testing, driving a movement of sustainable change. Through awareness sessions, they educated villagers on:

- ◆ The connection between contaminated water and common illnesses
- ◆ Proper water storage techniques
- ◆ Simple filtration methods for households
- ◆ The importance of using PWSS water for drinking

Measurable Impact

Within a year, the village saw a dramatic decrease in waterborne diseases. Families that had regularly visited medical centers for stomach ailments and Diarrhea reported significant improvements in health. Within just one year, the village witnessed a remarkable decline in waterborne diseases. Families who had previously frequented medical centers for stomach ailments and diarrhea reported:

- ◆ Significant reductions in illness episodes
- ◆ Improved overall health and well-being

The result spoke for itself: the five women FTK group's tireless efforts had yielded tangible results, transforming the lives of Balitara No. 1's residents and setting a shining example.

“

“My children used to fall sick every few weeks,”

says Junu Medhi, a village resident.

“Since we started following the water safety practices taught by the FTK group, they've been much healthier. We spend less on medicine and more on education now.”

”

Recognition and Growth

Jal Jeevan Mission in Nalbari acknowledged the women's outstanding contributions by providing advanced training and certification. This recognition catapulted their voluntary initiative into a sustainable, community-led movement.

Today, these empowered women:

- ◆ Conducts regular water quality checks of the PWS system and household supplied water,
- ◆ Maintain meticulous records, tracking progress and identifying areas for improvement,
- ◆ Collaborate seamlessly with local authorities, ensuring prompt resolution of issues.



The Ripple Effect

Their dedication has not only improved the health and well-being of Balitara No. 1's residents but has also created a model for community-driven initiatives, inspiring others to replicate their success.

Their success has inspired neighbouring villages to establish similar women-led water quality monitoring groups. The model is being studied as a potential template for other rural communities facing water safety challenges.

“

As Babita puts it:

“Water is life. By protecting our water, we’re protecting our future generations. That’s a responsibility we take very seriously.”

”

These women of Balitara No. 1 embody a powerful testament to the transformative impact of grassroots leadership, particularly when driven by women. Their remarkable journey demonstrates that even the most deeply entrenched challenges can be overcome, paving the way for lasting, positive change that resonates throughout their communities.

Copy edited by
Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

“

“We never imagined we could make such a difference,”

says Champa.

“We were just ordinary women concerned about our families’ health. Now we’re helping secure the future of our entire community.”


”

The story of Balitara No. 1's water guardians offers a powerful testament to the transformative impact of targeted training and women's empowerment. Five ordinary women have evolved into extraordinary water protectors, demonstrating that with the right knowledge and support, women can spearhead community-led initiatives that drive lasting change.




Figure 31: Dalimi Rajbongshi showing the certificate provided by Nalbari JJM | Source: CML Tata Trusts







विद्यया ऽपि ब्रह्मचर्येण
विद्या विद्या विद्या
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI




Impact of Jal Jeevan Mission




1.36 lakh deaths of children can be averted.



4 lakh deaths from diarrhoea can be averted.



5.5 Crore hours saved daily from fetching water (75% women).



JJM has potential of 3 Crore Employment Generation.

Water as a Catalyst for Gender Equality: When women thrive, communities flourish

- Tashi Namgyal, IEC Coordinator, Leh and Asif Bashir Rather, IEC Coordinator, Kargil, Ladakh

Ladakh, a land of stark beauty and extreme climatic conditions, has always struggled with water scarcity. Despite being home to the Indus River and glacial streams, access to safe and adequate drinking water has long been a challenge, especially for women, who have traditionally been the primary water bearers in rural households.

With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a new wave of transformation is sweeping through Ladakh. The mission is not only ensuring household tap water connections but is also empowering women, easing their burdens, improving health, and enabling economic participation. Two remarkable women, **Tsewang Yangdol from Leh** and **Archo Syeda from Kargil**, stand as shining examples of how water security translates into women's empowerment.

Their stories reveal the profound impact of JJM—not just in providing water but in reshaping communities, redefining gender roles, and fostering self-reliance.

Tsewang Yangdol: A Farmer's Journey from Scarcity to Self-Reliance

In Chuchot Yokma village of Leh district, Tsewang Yangdol has lived the dual realities of water deprivation and resilience. A mother of three and a hardworking farmer, she has always relied on agriculture for her livelihood. However, access to water was her biggest challenge.



Figure 32: Tsewang Yangdol selling veggies and milk at market | Source: PHED Leh

Despite living near the Indus River, its waters were too polluted for drinking. Like many in her community, Tsewang depended on a distant spring and traditional irrigation canals fed by glacial melt. This system, however, was unpredictable and inequitable. She had to take turns, leading to delays, wastage, and inconsistent supply.

For years, she walked long distances to fetch water, a routine that consumed precious hours daily, leaving her with little time for farming or family. Her kitchen garden—essential for both nutrition and income—suffered due to time constrain, and erratic water supply, limiting her ability to grow and sell vegetables.

Then one day revolution happens with arrival of JJM that marked a turning point in Tsewang's life. With a household tap connection, she no longer had to spend hours carrying water. Clean water became available at her doorstep, tested for quality four times a year, ensuring safety for drinking and cooking.

With reliable water access, Tsewang could expand her farming activities. She established a greenhouse, ensuring year-round vegetable cultivation, which significantly improved her family's diet and financial stability. As the only vegetable seller in her locality, she began providing fresh produce at affordable prices, creating a local supply chain that benefited her entire community.





Figure 33: Tsewang Yangdol is happy as she has time for farming | Source: PHED Leh

Her journey didn't just end with personal success. Tsewang became a mentor and collaborator, encouraging other women to use water more efficiently and engage in sustainable agriculture. She worked with her neighbors to reuse treated greywater for irrigation, optimizing resources in the arid landscape of Ladakh.

Today, she stands as a Water Champion, demonstrating how access to safe water can be a catalyst for economic empowerment and social progress.

Archo Syeda: Leading the Change in Kargil

In the remote village of Shagaran in Kargil district, Archo Syeda remembers a time when water scarcity dictated the daily lives of women. Like many others, she spent hours

every day walking 2-3 km to fetch water from a distant stream.

The situation was particularly harrowing in extreme weather. During summers, the streams dried up, leading to days-long crises, while in winters, frozen water sources forced women to break through ice to collect water. The consumption of contaminated water often led to serious health problems, particularly among mothers and children, with frequent cases of waterborne diseases.

Women's daily schedules revolved around fetching water, leaving them no time for education, income-generating work, or even rest.

The implementation of JJM transformed Shagaran's water landscape. Every household now has a func-

tional tap connection, eliminating the need for backbreaking journeys to fetch water.

The availability of safe drinking water has dramatically improved health outcomes in the village. Cases of waterborne diseases have reduced, and children no longer fall sick frequently due to contaminated water. Women, freed from the burden of water collection, have found new opportunities for education, employment, and self-care.

“

“With good health and hygiene, our village is growing. It's the water which has changed our lives.”

Says Archo

”



Figure 34: On a snow filled morning, Archo Syeda with her FHTC
Source: PHED Kargil

But the impact goes beyond just providing water. Water quality testing through Field Test Kits (FTKs) has encouraged community participation. Women like Archo have taken an active role in ensuring clean water supply, learning how to test, treat, and manage water resources. This has given them a new sense of confidence and leadership.

With more time available, many women have started small businesses, engaged in skill development, and contributed to household income. Archo herself has become an advocate for water conservation and hygiene awareness, educating her village about sustainable water use and sanitation practices.

Her story exemplifies how water security is directly linked to women's empowerment and community development.

The journeys of Tsewang Yangdol and Archo Syeda highlight a larger women-led transformation happening across Ladakh. Water,

once a daily struggle, has become a source of strength and opportunity.

The impact of JJM on women's empowerment in Ladakh can be seen in:

- ◆ **Improved Health & Hygiene:** With clean drinking water, instances of diarrhea, waterborne infections, and malnutrition have significantly declined.
- ◆ **Economic Upliftment:** Women, no longer tied to time-consuming water collection, have found employment in farming, small businesses, and self-help groups.
- ◆ **Leadership & Participation:** Women have emerged as leaders in water management, ensuring quality control and sustainable usage in their communities.
- ◆ **Education & Development:** With more time available, young girls can attend school, and women can participate in training programs.

Tsewang and Archo are just two of the many Women Water Champions who are proving that access to water is access to empowerment.

Jal Jeevan Mission is not just a water initiative—it is a mission for dignity, equality, and progress. By ensuring universal access to clean water, JJM is breaking gender barriers, strengthening communities, and fostering sustainable development.

As Ladakh strides towards a future of water security, the stories of women like Tsewang Yangdol and Archo Syeda remind us that investing in water is investing in women—and investing in women means transforming entire societies.

Water is not just a resource; it is a right, a means to empowerment, and a foundation for a better future. Through their resilience and leadership, the women of Ladakh are proving that when women thrive, communities flourish.

Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Celebrating Women Champions of Madhya Pradesh

- Chanchal Kumar, Team Leader, NPMU PMCB and Amar Prakash, State Programme Director, WaterAid India

For decades, millions of rural households in India struggled with inadequate access to safe drinking water, impacting health, livelihoods, and overall well-being. The burden fell especially on women, who spent hours fetching water, limiting their opportunities for education, skill development, and economic participation.

In 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched as a step toward transforming water accessibility. With an ambitious goal—to achieve in five years what had remained unaccomplished for seven decades—the mission has not only improved rural infrastructure but also empowered women, giving them the freedom to reclaim their time and invest in personal and community growth. Today, guided by the principles of speed and scale, the mission has worked efficiently to improve access to safe drinking water, with tap connections being installed at a rapid pace. This steady progress has contributed to enhancing rural infrastructure, accessibility, and overall development and most importantly this has impacted the life of women in a big way.

For generations, women in rural India bore the burden of fetching water, walking long distances, and spending hours collecting this essential resource. The Jal Jeevan Mission has alleviated this daily struggle, allowing women to reclaim their time for education, skill development, and

livelihood opportunities. More than 24.8 lakh women have been trained in water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs), making them key stakeholders in ensuring safe drinking water in their communities.

Today, with these issues, we wish to share the contribution of three women water champions of Madhya Pradesh, who have significantly improved access to safe drinking water in their respective her village. By leading community-driven initiatives, they have not only addressed water scarcity but has also inspired many others to take up the cause of sustainable water management.

Smt. Leela Bai Pawar, **Memdi Village, Indore: Tale** **of a Water Warrior**

Although there was a water pipeline in their neighborhood in Madhya Pradesh's Memdi village in district Mhow, it did not connect to all the houses. The bore well in the neighbourhood was under a government scheme that was not properly maintained. Maintenance issues would often go unattended for days. Invariably, the task of fetching water from the distant hand pump fell on Leela and other women.

Life was not easy for Leela and until she, along with other women of her neighbourhood, were able to take water supply and management into their own hands.

“

“We used to spend more than half the day fetching water from far away. It used to be quite scary to go alone to the hand pump late at night or early in the morning”

says Leela Bai.

”

Interventions and training through WaterAid India and partner Samarthan enabled Leela to form a committee with 10 women from her neighbourhood and the women were able to learn to operate and maintain the pump! Together, they prevailed upon the village Panchayat to install a motor on the neighbourhood bore well.

Today, as chairperson of the committee, Leela Bai operates the motor of the bore well. She and her dedicated band of water warriors periodically clean and maintain the area around it and regulate water supply as per their requirements. If any technical fault occurs, they immediately inform the Panchayat and PHED. They even haul the motor out of the borewell if it needs to be repaired!

Leela Bai is pleased when she thinks about how improved access to water has transformed her life.

“

“The bore well is only about 30 feet from my house, and we’ve connected a pipe line from it directly to our doorstep. Access to clean drinking water has also reduced the incidence of illnesses and the consequent spending on medication. Also, earlier, too much of my time was spent fetching water. Now that that time is saved, I’ve been able to go out for work on daily wages.”

”

Leela Bai also said she's come to realise that as fetching water is always considered to be the woman's responsibility by society and that

men do not even realise the problems caused by the lack of access to water.

“

“Women are the ones who are most affected by water-related issues. That is why I'm encouraging more and more women in the village to take charge of water distribution and management here. At first, some men did not agree to let their wives come forward like this, but over time we've got success in this”.

”

Most of all, spearheading her community's quest for access to clean water has given Leela Bai an identity. She is no longer just another faceless wife/ mother in the village:

“

“Today, people have started to recognise me because of my work,” she says proudly, “Not just in my village - but in the Panchayat, Block and PHED too...”

”

Smt. Sunita Raikwar, Mankund Village, Dewas:
Nothing can dim the light that comes from within.

Nestled on a sloppy terrain, Mankund village in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh is located 22 kms from Hatpipalia Tehsil. The village is home to 1146 households with agriculture being the source of livelihood. Mankund has been witness to age old problems



Figure 35: Capacitated Sunita is now part of the Committee who conducts Water Quality Testing using FTKs regularly | Source: WaterAid India



like untouchability, alcoholism and access to safe drinking water.

December 2019, in Gram Panchayat Mankund Block Bagli, Mankund village was taken under the purview of Jal Jeevan Mission by the state and interventions under Women + Water Project through the implementing partner organization CARD – Centre for Advanced Research and Development began. During interactions with the community representatives on importance of water quality, clad in a saree with the ghunghat covering her face, Sunita Raikwal, an ASHA worker pointed out,

“Women in the village had to walk kilometers daily to fetch water from local wells and handpumps to meet the household needs, several times a day. The larger the family, the more the trips and ensuring water availability was the only priority”

A quick learner with an enigmatic smile and zeal, Sunita volunteered to be trained on water quality testing and soon she was leading the efforts in her village on generating awareness on importance of water quality. She would visit houses and encourage the women and adolescence girls of the community to learn water quality testing and would take time out from her busy schedule on weekends to train her fellow women on use of field-testing kits (FTKs). She maintains a register at the village level with details of all sources which have been tested and with support from the panchayat has established a routine for mandatory water quality testing of all drinking water sources in her village twice every year.

She gradually started taking lead in all water related activities in her village. She encouraged women and youth to

contribute in the process of participatory planning for preparation of Village Action Plan under Jal Jeevan Mission. During COVID-19 lockdown, she led from the front in ensuring social distancing in drinking water points at her village, generating awareness on hand hygiene. In December 2020, she attended yet another district level training of para geohydrologists and is now spearheading efforts on water conservation and waste-water management at her village.

“Be the change you wish to see, Gandhiji said. So, if women want the daily crisis of water to end, it is important that we participate and support in all efforts” concludes Sunita describing her work.

Smt. Babita Liloriya, Nayapura Village, Dewas:
Where there is a will, there is a way!

Babita Liloriya was one amongst the 20 trainees present in the village who participated at a training organized in Bagli block, on water security and water quality testing with Field Testing Kits.

“I was the only woman participant in the group. There was an initial hesitation, but I wanted to learn, and I trusted that if someone has nominated me for this training, I need to show up. I wanted to learn in the training and the hesitation couldn't stop me. So, I did, and all the participants made me feel welcome in the training,” she says.

Gradually she associated herself with data collection and undertaking household survey for preparation of water security plan. In due course she also learnt calculating - average water wasted by every household in her village and began advocating for water conservation at household level.

“Earlier, there were several visits to the doctor because my family members used to suffer from dysentery, diarrhea, etc. Ever since, I learnt how to test my water and about safe practices in keeping the water source clean and also in boiling water before consuming it, my visits to doctor have significantly reduced. Unless, there is some other ailment in my family, we do not go to the doctor at all.”



Figure 36: Babita is orienting a village Women Group on different parameters of water quality which can be tested with FTKs | Source: WaterAid India

Under interventions of Jal Jeevan Mission, Babita was the first to volunteer to undertake the training of water quality testing. Ever since she has learnt how to test water & also about how to keep the water sources safe – she has been advocating for everyone in her village – specially the women to learn WQ testing using the FTK. She has also trained quite a number of women on use of FTK in her village so as to ensure her larger family i.e – members of the community, as she calls them - do not fall sick due to drinking of contaminated water.

She has also recently been nominated for a training at district level on basic concepts of handpump repairing and retrofitting of pipes.

Leading from the heart **Smt. Rekha Dhavre,** **Ramghada Village, Sehore**

“It is my dream to get clean and safe drinking water at my home. With the lack of water I and the women of my village face problems every day. Getting clean water will save the cost of medicines and treatment of illnesses, which will improve the financial condition of the family and we will become self-sufficient.”

says 32-year-old Rekha Dhavre, a resident of Ramghada village in Sehore Madhya Pradesh.

Ramghada village receives water through the multi village scheme Mardanpur Water Group Supply Scheme, which is Mardanpur is one of the largest MVS in terms of supply to 189 villages in the district. Water

“

“As a leader, I make sure that I pay my taxes on time and make every effort to conserve and use water judiciously. It is my responsibility to set an example so that my community, who had placed their trust on me, see my actions being true to what I preach,”

says Rekha.

”

supply through the scheme was often irregular and as a result the residents of the village would refuse to pay water tax. Thus, despite the presence of a scheme in the village, water woes of the women in the village multiplied amidst all chaos.

Interventions on water access in Ramghada began in 2020 and Rekha Dhavre with a hope to end this crisis was an eager participant. Rekha along with other women from the community were trained on water safety, water quality, importance of village water subcommittee (*Pani Samiti*) and rights of the drinking water sub-committee.

Taking lead, Rekha Dhavre united 15 women from her village and proposed to form a water and sanitation ad hoc committee in the village with the intervention of 100% women members. She led this proposal in the forthcoming gram sabha and with support from the panchayat representatives the proposal was accepted and passed in the gram sabha.

The rest, as they say now is history. Rekha with her team of women committee members now lead the efforts in all water related issues in her village. Awareness drives in the village are often carried out by these women on importance of water conservation, water quality and water security. It is through the efforts of this committee that regular collection of water tax is being coordinated in the village.

Sustaining the momentum for a Water-Secure Future with the guiding principles of *“Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas,”* the Jal Jeevan Mission is steadfastly advancing towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission transcends the celebratory statistics of the present day; it resonates in the narratives of empowered women, focused classrooms, and uplifted rural communities. In this symphony of progress, every tap is a vital note, coming together to create a melody that embodies the spirit of a Naya Bharat, where the steady flow of water mirrors the nation's journey toward growth and prosperity. The mission goes beyond simply quenching thirst—it strives to make every drop a catalyst for transformation, enriching not just physical well-being but also fuelling the dreams and aspirations of millions across the country. As we celebrate this remarkable achievement, let us reaffirm our commitment to the mission's core principles—speed, scale, and inclusivity—ensuring that the benefits of safe and accessible water reach every household across our diverse nation. More than just numbers, let us cherish the lives empowered, communities uplifted, and the promise of a brighter, more sustainable future that each tap represents.



Visit of AS&MD, NJJM to SPM-NIWAS, Kolkata for Review and Strategic Planning of Key Initiatives

- Pradipta Mitra, SPM-NIWAS (NPMU-NJJM)

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (AS&MD), National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI, visited SPM-NIWAS, Kolkata, on 8th March 2025 to engage in strategic discussions on the institute's ongoing and future initiatives.

The visit focused on reviewing current activities, exploring new proposals, optimizing infrastructure, and planning major capacity-building programs. Shri Priyatu Mandal (IAS), Director of SPM-NIWAS, provided a comprehensive briefing on various capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the institute. These initiatives align with the broader objectives of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) and key national missions, such as the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).

AS&MD underscored the importance of strengthening Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities by systematically

documenting regional success stories and best practices from across India. Particular emphasis was placed on conducting before-and-after impact assessments of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions to demonstrate tangible benefits and lessons learned.

Key directives from AS&MD included the development of standardized course content for structured delivery through State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs). Additionally, the institute was instructed to launch e-learning courses on the iGOT Karmayogi platform and collaborate with the Capacity Building Commission to enhance course credibility, ensuring cross-institutional knowledge sharing.

AS&MD proposed that SPM-NIWAS evolve into an Incubation Hub for developing and implementing innovative water and sanitation solutions while supporting the rollout of state-level training programs. Discussions also covered the upcom-

ing Certificate Courses under both JJM and SBM-G, along with Induction Courses for engineers, which the institute is set to launch soon.

A detailed review was conducted on the institute's preparations for upcoming ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) courses, which are technical training programs sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs. These courses cater to international participants, particularly from the Global South, fostering global knowledge exchange in the WASH sector.

Additionally, AS&MD recommended empanelling experts in outreach, consultancy, and impact assessment, in adherence to NWE standards. Strengthening collaboration with other national institutions was also highlighted as a key priority. Reaffirming the government's commitment, AS&MD assured continued support to bolster SPM-NIWAS as a premier national and international centre of excellence in WASH capacity building and innovation.



Figure 37: AS&MD-NJJM during visit of SPM NIWAS with Director of the Institute | Source: SPM NIWAS

Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti launches DDWS- UNICEF's 'Ripples of Change' Publication Showcasing Gender-Transformative WASH Stories and Revamped website

- Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, CR Patil, launched the book, "Ripples of Change: Gender-transformative rural WASH programmes in India" on 26th March, 2025 at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi in presence of Secretary, DDWS; Secretary-DoWR and other senior officers.

The book is a joint publication of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, and UNICEF India, captures ten powerful stories from rural India. Documented by UNICEF, the stories reflect the transformational impact of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and Jal Jeevan Mission through the lens of gender empowerment, community leadership, and grass-roots innovation.

During the event, the Minister also launched the upgraded version of Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation website portal. The upgraded website is among the first few government platforms to be successfully onboarded and revamped in full compliance with the latest Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) and Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW) 3.0.

This event reaffirms Ministry of Jal Shakti's commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and community-led development. The event was attended by senior officials from the Ministry including Secretary DDWS, and Secretary- DoWR, Mission Directors of SBMG and JJM, Chief of WASH of UNICEF India and other officials.

“

Speaking at the event, the Hon'ble Minister shared,

“The stories in Ripples of Change remind us that when women lead, change follows. 'Ripples of Change' is not just a book, it's a reflection of the silent revolutions taking place in our villages.

The missions of Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan are not only about infrastructure alone they are about dignity, empowerment, and transformation. Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I am proud that our Ministry is setting new standards in digital governance with the launch of our upgraded website a platform that is not only modern and secure, but also inclusive, accessible and citizen centric.”

”



Figure 38: Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti with UNICEF Team during launch of Ripples of Change book | Source: NJJM

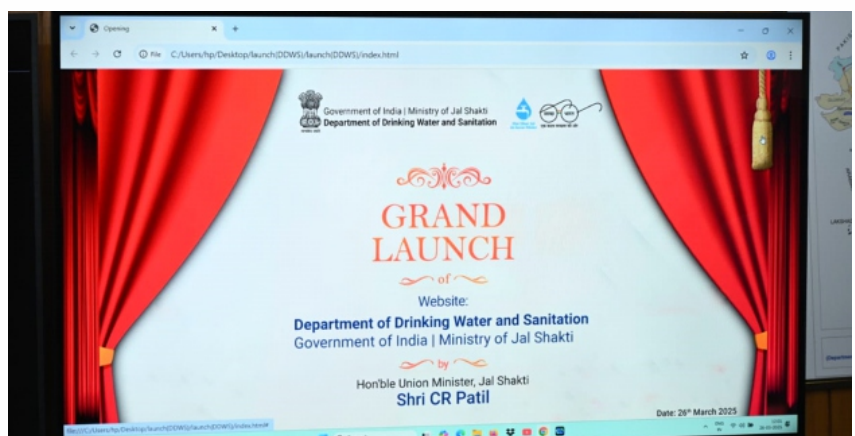


Figure 39: Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti launched revamped DDWS website | Source: NJJM

Visits

To do the ground truthing of progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, National WaSH Expert of NJJM visited several villages of Dibrugarh district of Assam. During the visit, he inspected JJM and SBM-G works and interacted with stakeholders like FTK group, WUC, VWSC, ASHA, TPIA & beneficiaries on sustainability and their role in O&M. Other NEW experts, Shri Ishwar Chand Jain, National WASH Expert, NJJM visited 10 PWSSs in 6 villages of Char and Hard to Reach area of Barpeta District, Assam on 22nd March, 2025 for monitoring different parameters of JJM & SBM-G.



Figure 40, 41: Interaction with workforce of Tea Garden in Achabam Tea garden area and inspection of Achabam Chah Bagisa 334-347 and Achabam Chah Bagisa Appl, PWS schemes. Inspection of work at 3 No. Alopatei NC village under Alopatei Majorchar GP, Mandia Block, Barpeta, Assam. | Source: PHED Assam

In Odisha, NWE visited Jal Jeevan Mission MVS scheme in Binika Dungurpali mega PWS in Sonepur District, Odisha. During the visit, Dr. B Krishna visited ESR at Bisalpali, Cascading Aerator of WTP, FHTC inspection at Kadalipali village and had FGD with Langalkanta villagers.



Figure 42: Interaction with Local Village Community at Kadalipali village, Sonepur District, Odisha | Source: NWE Expert

Snippets

Jammu & Kashmir: Inauguration of WSS scheme: Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Sh. Javed Ranaa, inaugurated Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) at Mendhar, Poonch during his extensive visit to the district. These WSSs have been completed with a cost of Rs 3.25 crore and Rs 5.45 crore respectively, as part of Jal Jeevan Mission.



Figure 43 | Source: J&K State social media handle

Nagaland: Dept of Environmental science of Unity College, Dimapur organised one day workshop on "Water Quality Management" at State Lab, Dimapur. Total 24 students & 3 faculty along with HOD attended the workshop. Lecture was delivered by State Chemist on water quality aspect & the importance of knowing water quality.



Figure 44 | Source: PHED Nagaland social media page



Assam: A day-long 'Training on Handling Legal Matters' was organized to sensitize stakeholders of the Public Health Engineering Department, in Guwahati. The main objective of the training was to empower stakeholders with essential skills in drafting legal documents, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle legal matters effectively and efficiently.



Figure: 45 | Source: PHED, Assam

Karnataka: Multiple batches of Nal Jal Mitra training in Karnataka have been successfully completed, equipping candidates with multi-skilled plumbing expertise to strengthen water infrastructure and sanitation.



Figure: 46 | Source: Social Media Karnataka

Discussion about Jal Jeevan Mission on DD Kisan

Shri Samir Kumar, Economic Advisor, DDWS was invited by DD Kisan as a guest to speak about of Jal Jeevan Mission in 'Sarkar Aapke Saath' programme. This programme of DD Kisan focuses on how citizens will get benefits of government schemes.

In his interaction with DD Kisan Shri Samir Kumar focus light on objectives of JJM, unprecedented progress made

so far, announcement of extension of JJM upto December 2028, how JJM is ensuring quality of Infrastructure, operation & maintenance (O&M) of water supply assets, the citizen-centric approaches, Jan Bhagidari and the way forward.

Watch the discussion: *Sarkar Aapke Sath*
जल जीवन मिशन | DD Kisan



Figure 47, 48: Shri Samir Kumar, Economic Advisor, DDWS during discussion with DD Kisan | Source: DD Kisan



Meeting/ Conference

AS&MD-NJJM chaired a meeting with all the Rural WASH Partners' Fourm members on 06.03.2025 at CGO Complex, New Delhi with an objective of works done so far and way forward for strengthening the WASH Sector.

The members of forum shared their views, status, how they are helping States for implementing and monitoring have been shared. The works done under JJM and SBMG is crucial component of department. During the discussion, issues, challenges and other components were also discussed.



Figure: 49 | Source: NJJM



Social Media Wall

Narendra Modi @narendramodi · Mar 16
 Birthday wishes to Union Minister Shri CR Patil Ji. He is making commendable efforts to ensure our water resources are harnessed effectively to boost 'Ease of Living' and our vision of **Har Ghar Jal** is realised. May he lead a long and healthy life.

Transforming UP @transforming_up · Mar 24, 2025
 UP's water story is inspiring a healthier tomorrow! 80% of Jal Jeevan Mission projects are powered by solar energy – sustainable and clean. Clean drinking water for all is now a reality in Uttar Pradesh!
 #TransformingUP #8YearsUPYogiGov

UP TOPS BHARAT IN MAXIMUM TAP CONNECTIONS
 24,050 VILLAGES certified with 'Har Ghar Jal'
 507,479 KM water pipeline laid for clean drinking water
 2.37 CRORE+ rural homes enjoy functional tap-water connections
 4.80 LAKH+ women empowered to test water quality

Organiser We... @eOrga... · Mar 29
 Har Ghar Jal: A mission transforming rural water woes!
 Jal Jeevan Mission focuses on water conservation, community ownership, and decentralised governance—unlike past schemes that lacked long-term sustainability.
 Writes: Shashank Kumar Dwivedi

Chief Minist... @CMOffi... · Mar 25
 HCM Dr. @himantabiswa had a fruitful meeting with Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @CRPaatil in New Delhi today.
 The discussion explored plans for rejuvenating Silsako Beel and key aspects of the implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission** in Assam.

Manorama Year... @MM_Yea... · Mar 25
 Out of 19.36 crore rural households in the country, more than 15.53 crore (80.20%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JIM)** – **Har Ghar Jal**.
 manoramayearbook.in/current-affair...
 @jaljeevan_ #UPSC

CR Paatil @CRPaatil · Mar 16
 Heartfelt gratitude for your warm wishes, Sir! Your guidance and inspiration have always been a source of strength. With unwavering commitment, I strive to realize the vision of **Har Ghar Jal** and create a water-abundant India for generations to come.

Narendra... @narend... · Mar 16
 Birthday wishes to Union Minister Shri CR Patil Ji. He is making commendable efforts to ensure our water resources are harnessed effectively to boost 'Ease of Living' and our vision of **Har Ghar Jal**.

Himanta Biswa... @himantabiswa · Mar 26, 2025
 The Jal Jeevan Mission is not just another scheme but a game-changer for lakhs of people in Assam.
 ...reduced incidence of water borne diseases, manifold and empowered the people through Water User Committees and Jal Mitra initiatives.

Jal Jeevan Mission
 Village Nuaripi becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' on 24.03.2025 in District Mon, Nagaland. 100% Tap Water Connections.
 Village Monyakhshu becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' on 24.03.2025 in District Mon, Nagaland. 100% Tap Water Connections.
 Village Shengshuh Wama becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' on 24.03.2025 in District Mon, Nagaland. 100% Tap Water Connections.

ORF @orfonline · Mar 24
 Budget boosts the National **Jal Jeevan Mission** with ₹67,000 crore for 100% rural tap water by 2028. But it lacks measures for groundwater depletion and #climateresilience, key to water security: @Aparna_R1, @sharonsthawany & Radhey Wadhwa

Jacob Zhimomi @jacob.zhimomi · Mar 4
 Sharing the latest list of villages under the following respective districts (Mon, Tsemirnyu and Mokochung) which have been declared #HarGharJal. #JalJeevanMission as envisioned by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji.





Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Samvad



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Jal Jeevan Mission

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