

# Jal Jeevan Samvad

December | Volume 5 | Issue 12 | Year 2024



Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership  
Changing Lives

## Theme

Jal Jeevan Mission  
Stories of Change



# Contents



## Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission.....1

### Preface

- Shri Ashok K. K. Meena (Secretary) .....2

### Note from the desk of Joint Secretary

- Smt. Swati Meena Naik.....3

### JJM Progress

- Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) .....4

- Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ Uts.....4

### Articles

- Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu Confers National Panchayat Awards to Water Sufficient Gram Panchayats - Amit Ranjan .....6

- Har Ghar Jal: Catalyzing a Social Revolution - Lopamudra Panda .....8

Achieving 24/7 Clean Water Access A Blueprint for Rural Water Revolution under Jal Jeevan Mission in Kolor

- Lopamudra Panda and Jagdish C.....10

Reining in Migration: A New Hope to Balabehat

- Charu Shukla and Utkarsha Rathi.....12

Building Water Resilience: The Mualkhang Village Model

- Er. Lallawmpuia Sawhtley and Shailika Sinha.....14

A Female Water Warrior: A tale of empowerment, community action and transformation

- Tula Bardhan .....16

From Hardship to Hope: Nur Jahan's Triumph with Clean Water for a Brighter Future

- Parikh Shukla and Lopamudra Panda .....18

From Struggle to Relief: Phulo's Journey of Clean Water in Parakot

- Utkarsha Rathi.....20

The Dream of Safe Water Comes True Improved Economic Conditions and a Shared Sense of Participation

- Lopamudra Panda .....22

Empowering Rural Lives through Jal Jeevan Mission: The Transformation of Kannapanthal Village Panchayat

- Lopamudra Panda .....24

Tap Water reaches Barmer Village, over 700 km away from Narmada

- Shri Sonaram & Amit Ranjan .....26

जल जीवन मिशन ग्राम मुड़पार की नई सुबह

- कैलाश मंडेरिया और अमित रंजन .....27

शुद्ध जल से विकलांगता का अंत: परमारखेड़ी में एक नई सुबह

- शैलिका सिन्हा.....28

From Frozen Struggles to Flowing Hope Jal Jeevan Mission's Triumph in Drass and Zanskar

- Asif Bashir Rather and Lopamudra Panda .....29

Stories of Empowerment and Transformation: Bringing Tribal Communities Closer to Mainstream Through Jal Jeevan Mission

- Archana Pandey and Monideepa Das.....32

## Initiatives by States/ Uts .....36

## Social Media Wall .....37



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# Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

*A good perspective on how Jal Jeevan Mission is furthering women empowerment, especially in our rural areas. With clean water at their doorstep, women can now focus on skill development and self-reliance.*

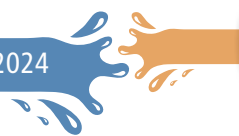
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during completion of one year of Rajasthan Government at Jaipur on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

*“...For the first time, a national mission was launched to provide tap water to every household. In the seven decades after independence, only three crore rural families had access to tap water. Over the last five years, we have provided tap water connections to 12 crore additional families. So far, more than Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been invested in this scheme.*

*Another crucial aspect of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which is not often discussed, is the focus on water quality testing. Across the country, 2,100 water quality laboratories have been set up. In villages, 25 lakh women have been trained to test drinking water. As a result, thousands of villages are now free from the compulsion of consuming contaminated water. Imagine the significance of this effort in safeguarding children and communities from waterborne diseases.-*

Prime Minister's address at the laying of foundation stone of Ken – Betwa River Linking National Project at Khajuraho, MP on 25th December, 2024

”





# Preface



New Delhi  
December 2024

Ever since its inception in 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission has harnessed the collective power of communities, innovation, and partnerships to create lasting impact. By building synergies between grassroots efforts, technological advancements, and local leadership, the Mission has accelerated progress and expanded its reach across the nation. These efforts add momentum to our shared vision of ensuring that clean and safe drinking water is not just a service but a universal right, one that transforms lives and uplifts entire communities.

The Mission has achieved significant milestones, quantitative as well as qualitative. These achievements reflect the resilience and determination of millions of individuals working together towards a common goal. Beyond the numbers, the transformation is seen in lives changed – women freed from hours of water-fetching, children able to focus on education, and communities experiencing improved health, dignity, and opportunity.

Innovation has been a cornerstone of this journey. Through collaboration, the Mission has embraced cutting-edge solutions to address challenges, improve efficiency, and enhance sustainability. Digital tools and technologies are enabling smarter decision-making, while local leadership ensures that these solutions are inclusive and grounded in community needs.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene – WASH is the pathway to equality, offering opportunities for meaningful participation and empowerment. Inclusive WASH systems have not only brought clean water to households but have also promoted gender equity and transformed traditional structures. Women and marginalised groups are now at the forefront of decision-making, showcasing the impact of gender-transformative leadership in creating sustainable change.

As we prepare for 2025, our ambition is to continue building on this momentum with bold innovations, expanded partnerships, and deeper engagement with local communities. The goal remains clear: universal access to clean, safe drinking water, ensuring that every drop brings hope, dignity, and opportunity to all.

This edition of *Samvad* highlights the inspiring stories of resilience, collaboration, and leadership that define Jal Jeevan Mission. From innovative solutions to community-driven initiatives, these narratives showcase the transformative power of collective effort and shared vision.


Together, we look forward to the next phase of this journey – one where the flow of water symbolises the flow of progress, equality, and a brighter future for generations to come.

Warm Regards,

Shri Ashok K. K. Meena  
Secretary,

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

## Note from the desk of Joint Secretary...



New Delhi  
December 2024

As we bid goodbye to another eventful year, it is the perfect moment to reflect on the strides we have taken under Jal Jeevan Mission. This year was not without its challenges, but our commitment to the Mission's vision has remained steadfast. Together, we have celebrated milestones that speak not only of numbers but of the profound impact on lives and communities across the nation.

Jal Jeevan Mission has reached 15.40 crore rural households, achieving nearly 80% coverage. The transformation this has brought is vividly captured in a recent State Bank of India (SBI) research study. The study highlights how providing access to tap water has not only improved household convenience but has significantly reduced the deprivation index, lifting millions out of poverty and enhancing the dignity and quality of life in rural India. Notably, the research reflects on the profound impact on women, with reduced time spent fetching water enabling greater participation in education and economic activities. Furthermore, the SBI study correlates enhanced water access with better health outcomes and economic stability, reinforcing the Mission's role in driving India's rural transformation.

To measure our progress and ensure we stay on track, we have relied on a comprehensive set of indicators. These don't just capture outputs but also reflect the outcomes that matter most: healthier lives, stronger communities, and a better quality of life for all. Each milestone we achieve represents a shared success, a testament to collective effort and determination.

This year has also been about building for the future. By strengthening our Panchayats and empowering local communities, we are creating a foundation of leadership and responsibility that will sustain this progress for generations. Capacitating people at the grassroots ensures the Mission is not just a programme but a movement owned by those it serves.

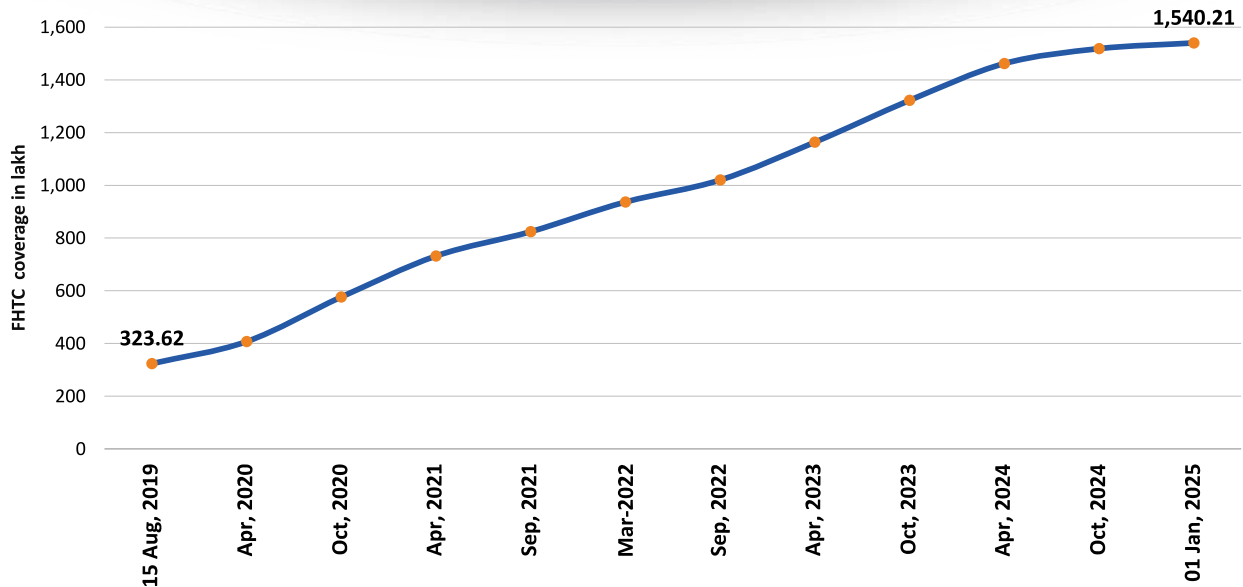
As we look to 2025, our vision remains clear. The year ahead brings the promise of fresh ideas, new innovations, and a renewed resolve to achieve universal access to clean and safe drinking water. It is an ambitious goal, but one we are determined to achieve together.

Even as global challenges persist, we choose to focus on the opportunities that emerge from them. With resilience as our guide and collaboration as our strength, we are confident that the year ahead will be one of progress and promise.

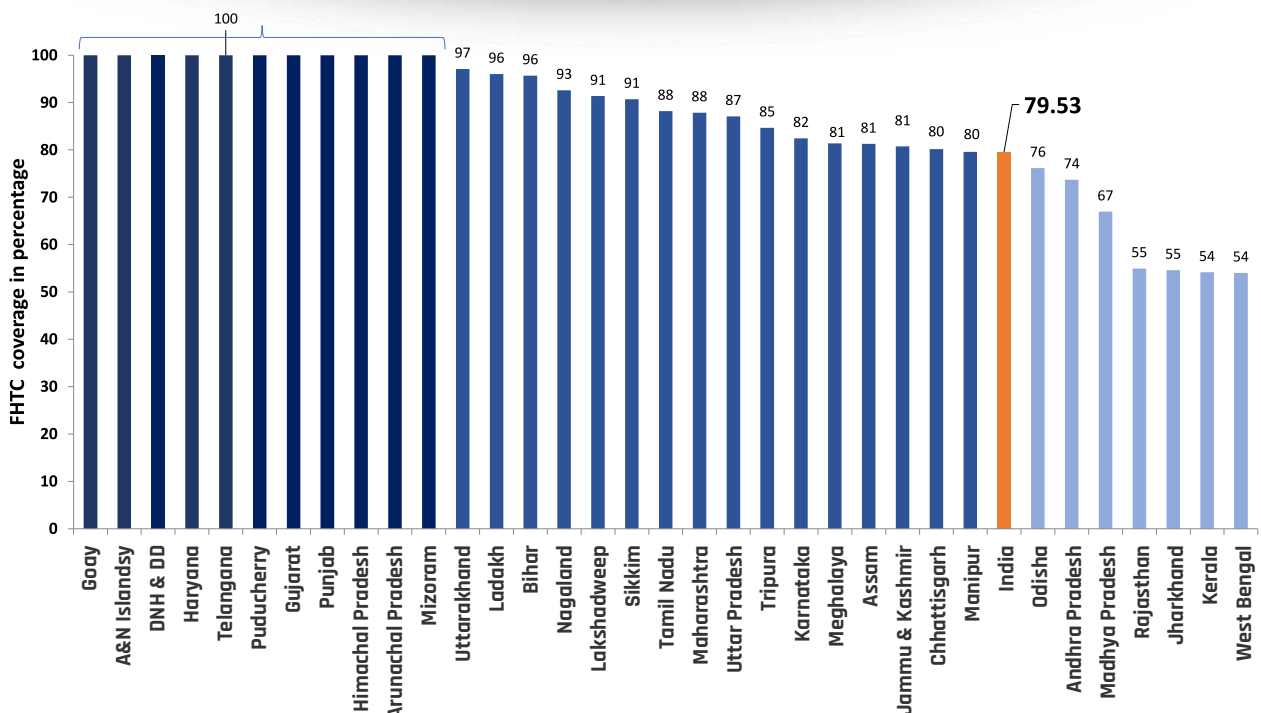
To everyone who has been part of this journey; your efforts and dedication inspire us to continue striving for a future where every drop of water brings hope, health, and happiness to every home. Let's walk into the new year with optimism and a shared commitment to make 2025 another year of meaningful change.

[Smt. Swati Meena Naik]

## Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.12.2024)



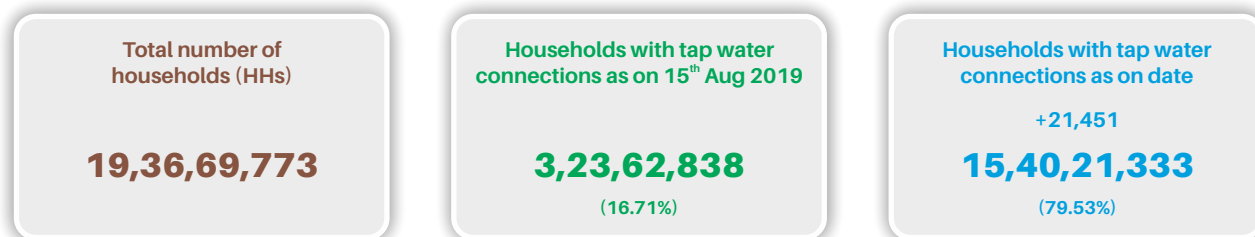
## Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.12.2024)



# As on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024

Source: JJM-IMIS

## India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes



Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

**12,16,58,495** (75.42%)

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

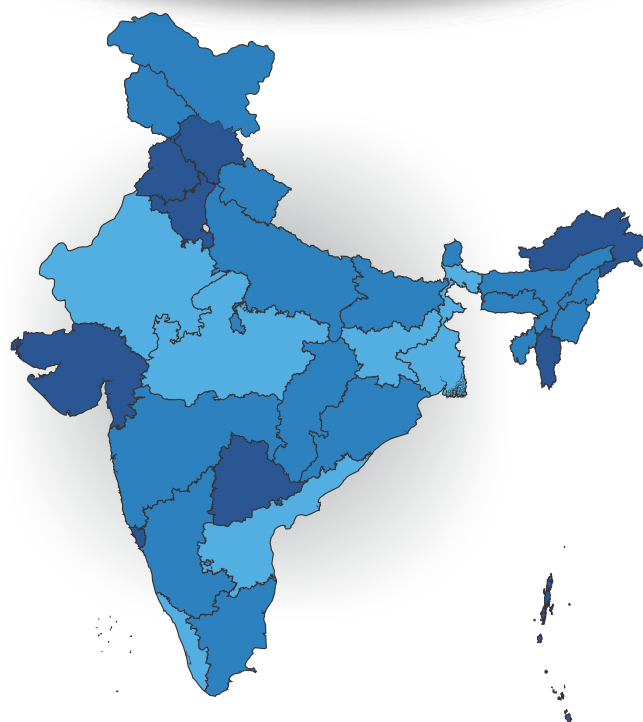
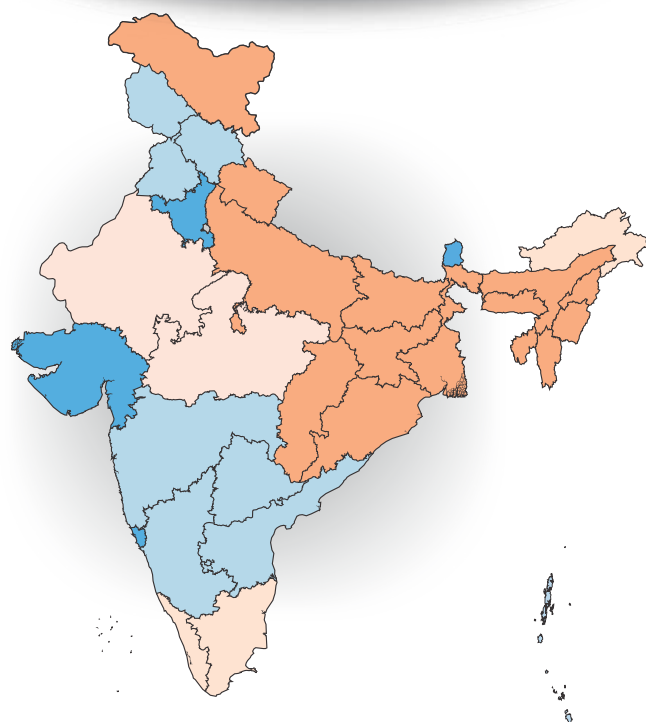
100% FHTC States/ UTs

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



As on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

As on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024



0 to <10%

10% to <25%

25% to <50%

50% to <75%

75% to <100%

100%





## Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu Confers National Panchayat Awards to Water Sufficient Gram Panchayats

- Amit Ranjan  
NJJM



The Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the National Panchayat Awards Conferment Ceremony 2024, organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, held on 11th December, 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan,

New Delhi. During the ceremony, the Hon'ble President conferred National Panchayat Awards upon 45 awardees (42 Panchayats and 3 Capacity Building Institutes) outstanding Panchayats selected across various categories for their exceptional

contributions to sustainable and inclusive development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu said that about 64 percent of the population of our



country lives in villages. Therefore, the development and empowerment of villages and villagers is important to make India a developed nation. She was happy to note that in the past one decade the government has made serious efforts for empowerment of panchayats, which aims to achieve concrete results. The Hon'ble President said that the foundation of a developed India could be laid only on the basis of self-reliant and capable local bodies. Panchayats should try to become self-reliant by

developing their own sources of revenue. This self-reliance will provide self-confidence to the Gram Sabhas and strength to the country.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister, Panchayati Raj said during the event, the core principle of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030 is the principle of universality: "Leave no one behind." He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in this Amrit Kaal of

independence, the Government of India has taken firm steps with the resolve of Antyodaya (ensuring the welfare of the person standing at the farthest end of society).

Under the category of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar and others, Nyayampudi Gram Panchayat from Andhra Pradesh, Sikander GP from Himachal Pradesh and Devbadi from Tripura won first, second and third prize respectively.



## के द्वारा श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह उर्फ लल्लन सिंह

माननीय केंद्रीय मंत्री, पंचायती राज मंत्रालय और मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

एवं

## प्रो. एस. पी. सिंह बघेल

माननीय केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री, पंचायती राज मंत्रालय और मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में

11 दिसंबर 2024 | विज्ञान भवन, नई दिल्ली



# Har Ghar Jal: Catalyzing a Social Revolution

- Lopamudra Panda  
NJJM

From 2011 to 2021, a decade of transformative change has profoundly reshaped India's rural landscape, driven by a commitment to ensuring access to essential services. At the forefront of this movement stands Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a cornerstone initiative launched in 2019 with the audacious goal of providing tap water to every rural household by 2024. As chronicled in a recent State Bank of India (SBI) research study, the outcomes of this mission have ignited a social revolution, bringing tangible benefits to millions.

## From Deprivation to Dignity

The SBI research study highlights a significant reduction in the deprivation index, constructed using indicators such as the percentage of households fetching water from outside premises. This index, ranging from 0 to 1 (with lower values indicating less deprivation), demonstrated a remarkable improvement between 2011-2021, reflecting enhanced access to essential services across the country. At an all-India level, this index has halved over the past decade, lifting 6 crore households – equivalent to 25 crore people – out of deprivation. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra alone accounted for 10 crore individuals benefiting from these advancements.

This remarkable progress underscores the transformative power of comprehensive public policies. By

Deprivation Index					
	Major States	2011	2021	Change	Pop out of Deprivation in decade (crore)
More deprived than All-India level	Odisha	0.79	0.60	-0.19	0.5
	Jharkhand	0.75	0.52	-0.23	0.4
	Andhra Pradesh	0.51	0.41	-	-
	Madhya Pradesh	0.71	0.41	-0.30	1.6
	West Bengal	0.56	0.41	-0.15	1.1
	Chhattisgarh	0.78	0.39	-0.38	0.8
	Tamil Nadu	0.57	0.35	-0.22	1.4
	Rajasthan	0.63	0.35	-0.28	1.5
All-India		0.51	0.28	-0.23	24.9
Less deprived than All-India level	Karnataka	0.50	0.25	-0.25	1.4
	Uttar Pradesh	0.48	0.22	-0.27	4.5
	Bihar	0.58	0.21	-0.37	3.4
	Assam	0.46	0.19	-0.26	0.7
	Uttarakhand	0.41	0.19	-0.23	0.2
	Gujarat	0.42	0.19	-0.24	1.2
	Maharashtra	0.38	0.17	-0.20	2.0
	Telangana	-	0.17	-	-
	Haryana	0.29	0.13	-0.15	0.3
	Kerala	0.26	0.12	-0.14	0.4
	Himachal Pradesh	0.41	0.08	-0.33	0.2
	Delhi	0.11	0.05	-0.06	0.1
	Goa	0.24	0.04	-0.20	0.0
	Punjab	0.17	0.04	-0.13	0.4

Figure 1: Source: SBI Research; 2011 AP is including Telangana

6

ensuring water availability within households, JJM has significantly alleviated the burden on rural women, traditionally responsible for fetching water. This change has impacted an estimated 9 crore women, who can now redirect their time and energy towards education, economic activities, and other personal pursuits, as highlighted in the SBI research study. Earlier WHO

estimates that achieving JJM's goals will save over 5.5 crore hours daily, primarily for women, freeing up their time for education, economic participation, and other pursuits.

## Women at the Heart of Progress

One of the most profound impacts of JJM has been on women's lives. The



Impact of Drinking water availability on women labour force						
State	% of households fetching water outside premise			% of working females in Agriculture & Allied		
	2017-18	2020-21	Change	2017-18	2020-21	Change
Andhra Pradesh	69.3	60.3	-9.0	61.1	56.5	-4.6
Assam	11.6	13.3	1.7	45.8	74.7	29.0
Bihar	8.2	9.7	1.5	53.6	82.1	28.5
Chhattisgarh	61.7	58.6	-3.1	78.4	77.0	-1.3
Goa	4.3	5.2	0.9	16.2	12.3	-3.9
Gujarat	28.3	16.7	-11.6	56.4	61.1	4.8
Haryana	23.7	24.9	1.2	47.1	45.9	-1.2
Himachal Pradesh	30.1	10.7	-19.4	83.9	78.5	-5.5
Jharkhand	74.6	63.8	-10.8	62.9	76.6	13.7
Karnataka	46.8	36.5	-10.3	54.4	58.4	4.0
Kerala	12.9	12.0	-0.9	19.0	36.4	17.3
Madhya Pradesh	72.1	54.5	-17.6	72.3	76.8	4.5
Maharashtra	33.0	22.2	-10.8	65.5	59.0	-6.5
Odisha	74.7	66.9	-7.8	54.7	69.5	14.8
Punjab	8.1	5.1	-3.0	25.6	34.0	8.4
Rajasthan	48.2	41.0	-7.2	75.6	74.3	-1.3
Tamil Nadu	58.8	45.7	-13.1	36.3	38.6	2.4
Telangana	54.4	24.1	-30.3	54.5	53.1	-1.4
Uttar Pradesh	29.7	24.9	-4.8	64.6	81.8	17.3
Uttarakhand	22.3	26.3	4.0	69.3	68.0	-1.3
West Bengal	55.1	48.8	-6.3	35.6	50.8	15.2
<b>All-India</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>-8.3</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Figure 2: Source: SBI Research

SBI research study reveals a direct correlation between reduced water-fetching duties and increased female participation in agricultural and allied activities. An 8.3 percentage point decline in households fetching water from outside premises corresponded with a 7.4 percentage point rise in women's workforce participation in agriculture.

This shift not only enhances household incomes but also elevates the social status of women, fostering empowerment in communities long defined by traditional gender roles.

## Healthier Communities, Stronger Futures

The mission's impact extends beyond convenience and empowerment to critical health outcomes. Improved access to potable water has dramati-

cally reduced mortality rates, particularly maternal and infant mortality. Studies estimate that safely managed drinking water prevents nearly 400,000 annual deaths from diarrheal diseases and saves 14 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) as estimated by WHO.

Research by Nobel laureate Prof. Michael Kremer, suggests that safe water coverage could reduce mortality among children under five by nearly 30%, potentially saving 136,000 lives annually.

The Swachh Bharat Mission's complementary role in sanitation has further amplified these health benefits. By reducing open defecation, the program has averted up to 70,000 infant deaths annually, creating healthier communities poised for a brighter future.

## Economic Momentum Through Employment

Beyond its immediate social impacts, JJM has been a powerful economic driver. The Mission's capital expenditure phase generated 59.9 lakh person-years of direct and 2.2 crore person-years of indirect employment. Its ongoing operation and maintenance are expected to create an additional 13.3 lakh person-years of direct employment, contributing to rural economic stability. It is estimated by IIMB, in partnership with International Labour Organization (ILO).

## A Vision for 2047

Jal Jeevan Mission exemplifies the transformative potential of focused, well-implemented public policies. By addressing basic needs, it lays a foundation for a Viksit Bharat – a developed India by 2047. The mission's successes reaffirm that when communities are empowered with resources like clean water, the ripple effects extend far and wide, enriching lives and strengthening the nation's social fabric.

As we approach towards 100 percent saturation, the journey of Har Ghar Jal inspires a renewed commitment to ensuring no one is left behind. This is not just a story of water – it is a story of dignity, health, empowerment, and hope for millions.

To read the research document of SBI Scan the QR Code



# Achieving 24/7 Clean Water Access

## A Blueprint for Rural Water Revolution under Jal Jeevan Mission in Kolor

- Lopamudra Panda

NPMU-NJJM and

- Jagdish C

State HRD Expert,

RDWSD Dept. Karnataka

In a small yet resolute village of Kolor, located in Karnataka's Koppal district, a transformation has taken root – one that promises to reshape rural India's access to clean drinking water. Thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Kolor has emerged as a model village for uninterrupted water supply, showcasing the impact of infrastructure innovation, community participation, and visionary leadership.

Kolor stands among the top three villages in Karnataka delivering 24/7 potable water to every household through piped connections. Out of the 412 homes, all now enjoy round-the-clock clean water, sourced from

borewells and stored in overhead tanks. The system operates on principles of equitable distribution, monitored meticulously through smart water meters to ensure efficiency and prevent wastage.

The village of Kolor erupted in joy as it achieved the 'Har Ghar Jal' status, ensuring every household has access to clean drinking water. Women and girls created vibrant rangolis around their taps and worshiped, grateful for the water that's not only quenching their thirst but also reducing their daily burdens.

The milestone was celebrated with a grand event organized by SWSM

Karnataka, Zilla Parishad, and the community. Hon'ble MP Sri Rhada Krishna, MLA Sri. Basavaraj Mattimud, and CEO of ZP Sri. Bhanwar Singh Meena IAS inaugurated the 24/7 water supply scheme. The event was attended by an overjoyed community, students, and youths, who took a pledge to save water and conserve this precious resource.

At the heart of this milestone lies a bold and sustainable design: an allocation of 55 litres per person per day. This implementation not only guarantees fair access but also encourages responsible usage. The outcome? A harmonious blend of technology and governance solving



Figure 3: Hon'ble MP, MLA & CEO ZP worshipping the tap during event | Source: RDWSD Karnataka



one of the most pressing challenges rural India faces today.

For generations, the responsibility of fetching water from distant sources, often unreliable sources fell disproportionately on women and children. The availability of water at their doorstep has brought a sea of change. Time once spent hauling water under the scorching sun is now invested in education, livelihoods, and self-development.

The benefits extend beyond convenience. Reliable access to clean water has curbed waterborne diseases, improving public health and overall well-being. This initiative has redefined not just infrastructure but also human dignity, unlocking opportunities that were previously unattainable.

Kolur's success represents the vision of the Jal Jeevan Mission: making drinking water accessible, sustainable, and equitable for all. This achievement is a testament to collaboration—between government initiatives, local leadership, and

“

Nalini, a resident aptly describes this shift

*Fetching water used to consume hours every day. Now, with clean water at our doorstep, our lives have truly changed. We feel healthier and more empowered.*

”

active community involvement. By ensuring transparency and leveraging technology, the village has proven that scalable, sustainable solutions are within reach.

Kolur's story is not an isolated success but a replicable model. It serves as an inspiration for other rural communities striving to achieve efficient water management. This initiative sets the foundation for holistic development, ensuring that no household is left behind.

As Karnataka propels forward under Jal Jeevan Mission, Kolur's journey

serves as a beacon, offering valuable lessons for scaling similar projects across the state and beyond. The mission focuses on robust infrastructure, community empowerment, and accountability—principles with the power to transform millions of lives.

The impact of JJM extends far beyond the taps it installs. It reaffirms a fundamental truth: access to clean drinking water is not just a service but a promise of dignity, equality, and progress.

Kolur's remarkable achievement proves that sustainable water management is not a distant dream but an achievable reality. By bridging the gap between policy and practice, Jal Jeevan Mission is driving rural transformation—one village at a time.

As Kolur celebrates its milestone, it sets a benchmark for others to follow: a future where every home in rural India has access to safe, reliable drinking water. This is not just a story of infrastructure; it is a story of empowerment, hope, and a sustainable tomorrow.



Figure 4: Oath-taking by students and community for saving water and source | Source: RDWSD Karnataka



## Reining in Migration: A New Hope to Balabehat

- Charu Shukla  
UNOPS  
and  
- Utkarsha Rathi  
NJJM

**P**radeep Kushwaha was just eight when he left Lalitpur's Balabehat village. Two decades later, he is now back in the same village. If water (woes) forced his migration, it also stirred the reverse migration process as Jal Jeevan Mission has ensured potable water at the doorstep of the villagers here.

Pradeep admits that Jal Jeevan Mission has helped them reconnect with their roots as water scarcity has given way to potable water accessibility in hitherto water starved regions of Bundelkhand.

Back in his village, Pradeep, now 28, is enveloped by childhood memories. His eyes reflect his pain of being separated from his village, as he recalls how water woes forced him to leave his village home, his grandparents and friends.

*"Due to water scarcity, we relocated to Indore where also life wasn't easy as we somehow made two ends meet. I missed my grandparents and friends terribly," he shared.*

He admits he was among those kids in Balabehat, whose childhood dreams were shattered due to lack of access to clean drinking water though Uttar Pradesh's Jal Jeevan Mission has brought about a remarkable transformation by ensuring availability of potable water to Balabehat village in



Figure 5: Balabehat, sharing his story of relocating to Indore due to lack of water earlier. But because of JJM he gets to live with this family now | Source: SWSM, Uttar Pradesh

Lalitpur's rough terrain; a development that has now led to reverse migration.

*"I still remember the days when my grandparents and parents would walk 6 kilometres to fetch water, balancing 2 pots on their heads while walking along rugged paths. They'd often get injured," says Pramod and adds that Uttar Pradesh's Jal Jeevan Mission has been like a "blessing" for them.*

*"Now, villagers receive clean drinking water through taps. Water*

*has brought us back too and now it all feels like a dream come true for me. I will engage in farming and labour here but won't leave my village again," he says.*

Pramod's elder brother, Meharban Kushwaha, says, *"Over 40% people of our village had migrated due to water scarcity. But now that the news of tap water availability is spreading, many are eager to return. In fact about 10% of such people have already returned."*



“

*"Due to water scarcity, we had to leave our village and move to Indore. There, we survived by working as labourers, but life was far from easy. We toiled all day and barely managed to make ends meet. I missed my grandparents and friends terribly," shared 28-year-old Pradeep.*

*"I still remember the days when my grandparents and parents walked 6 kilometres daily to fetch water. They carried two pots on their heads and treaded along rugged paths, often getting injured," recalled Pramod. He added, "The Jal Jeevan Mission in Uttar Pradesh has been like a blessing for us." Now, villagers receive clean drinking water through taps. Water has brought us back, and it all feels like a dream come true for me. I will now engage in farming and labor here but will never leave my village again," Pramod said. His elder brother, Meharban Kushwaha, added, "More than 40% of our village had migrated due to water scarcity. But now, with the news of tap water availability spreading, many are eager to return. In fact, around 10% of them have already come back."*

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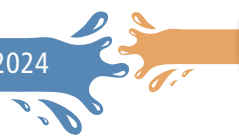
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Suman, an elderly woman in Balabehat, says: *"all my children left the village due to water scarcity. They migrated to Bhopal, Indore and Delhi. Now with water at doorstep all my sons, daughters-in-law and their children are happy and seeing our family live together has made us so happy that we feel that we would now live longer for 10 more years."*

Figure 6: Suman with her household tap | Source: SWSM, Uttar Pradesh

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# Building Water Resilience: The Mualkhang Village Model

- Er. Lallawmpuia Sawhtley  
Kolasib, Mizoram  
and  
- Shailika Sinha  
NJJM

**N**estled in the hills of North-ern Mizoram, Mualkhang Village lies under the N. Thingdawl RD Block in Kolasib District. According to the 2011 Census, the village had 106 households and 388 residents. Today, it is home to 164 households and 673 individuals.

What was once a village plagued by severe water scarcity has now become an inspiring model of sustainable water management. This remarkable transformation was driven by the combined efforts of resilient villagers, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), and the Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) Tied Grant. Through their determination, the community not only ensured

water availability but also achieved Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) status, becoming a model village.

## The Challenge of Hilltop Settlements

Perched on a hilltop at an altitude of 500 meters above mean sea level, Mualkhang faced significant challenges in accessing water. The community relied on a traditional spring source, Paihte Lui, located far below the hilltop. Fetching water was a labour-intensive task, often shouldered by women, who spent hours daily walking to and from the source.

The challenge was compounded by the practice of jhum cultivation

(shifting agriculture) in the catchment areas. This practice led to deforestation, soil erosion, and a gradual depletion of the water source. The villagers began to realize that without intervention, Paihte Lui would run dry within a few years.

## A Bold Resolution: Securing Water for the Future

Recognizing the need for urgent action, the villagers came together and made a critical decision: they would purchase the privately-owned lands in the catchment area to safeguard their water source. With collective efforts, the community successfully acquired the land and initiated tree-planting activities to restore the ecosystem.



Figure 7: Nestled in Nature: The Enchanting Mualkhang Village | Source: PHED Mizoram



This intervention led to a dramatic increase in the water discharge from Paihte Lui. Even during the driest months, water supply levels rose from **23.80 liters per capita per day (lpcd)** to **68.32 lpcd**, a milestone that transformed life in the village.

## The Water Supply System: A Model of Efficiency

Mualkhang Village now enjoys an efficient water supply system that ensures year-round access to safe water:

- ◆ **24x7 water supply** is provided from May to January, covering 9 months of the year.
- ◆ During the driest period, from February to April (3 months), water is controlled and equally distributed at a rate of 68.32 lpcd.

This innovative approach ensures not just sufficiency but also sustainability, even in challenging seasons.

## Revenue and Cost Management: Sustaining the System

The villagers adopted a structured and transparent system for revenue collection to cover operating costs:

- ◆ Households with **fewer than two occupants** pay ₹100 per month.
- ◆ Households with **more than two occupants** pay ₹150 per month.

On average, the village collects **₹13,500 per month**, which is efficiently allocated:

- ◆ ₹10,000 for **monthly operating costs**
- ◆ ₹2,000 for **sanitation work**
- ◆ The remaining amount of approximately **₹1,500** is deposited in the WATSAN Committee's bank account as savings.

Transparency is maintained through meticulous **record-keeping** with

water billing registers and cash books by the WATSAN Committee.

## Prioritizing Water Quality: Empowering Women

Water quality management is a top priority for Mualkhang. To ensure safe drinking water, **five women** from the village were trained to use Field Testing Kits (FTK) for regular water quality monitoring. This not only empowered women in the community but also ensured that the water supply remained safe and reliable.

## Functional Tap Connections: A Milestone in Transformation

The introduction of JJM marked a turning point in Mualkhang's journey. Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), a solar water pumping system was successfully installed in 2018, providing public water distribution points. However, the real transformation came in **2019-20** when JJM upgraded the water supply scheme.

For the first time, every household in Mualkhang received **Functional**

**Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)**. Additionally, **two schools** and **two Anganwadi centers** were equipped with tap connections, ensuring access to clean water for children and educators alike.

This achievement represented more than convenience; it brought dignity, health, and improved quality of life to the entire community.

## Conclusion: A Legacy of Unity and Sustainability

Mualkhang Village's journey is a powerful example of how a community's vision, perseverance, and unity can overcome even the toughest challenges. By taking ownership of their water resources, investing in their future, and fostering a culture of sustainability, the villagers not only secured access to clean water but also created a model for others to follow. As the village now thrives with abundant and sustainable water, it sets a shining precedent for hilltop communities across the nation, proving that with dedication and the right support, lasting change is achievable.



Figure 8: Solar based water supply scheme | Source: PHED Mizoram



## A Female Water Warrior:

### A tale of empowerment, community action and transformation

- Tula Bardhan  
State Safe Water Manager-  
AP, Evidence Action

Smt. Tamminedi Adilakshmi, a resident of Mangapuram village in Palanadu District, Andhra Pradesh, is a shining example of how women's empowerment and community-driven initiatives can transform lives. Living with her husband, a farmer, and their two children, her journey of making an impact in the community with her becoming a member of a self-help group (SHG).

Mangapuram, a remote village with 120 households and a population of about 500, once faced severe challenges with scarcity of drinking water. Although a water tank was installed by the Government of India,

its maintenance was not up to the mark. This led to health issues and mistrust among villagers about using the tank's water.

Adilakshmi emerged as a beacon of hope when no one else stepped forward to take responsibility for the water tank. She voluntarily took charge, managing the motor pump operations and ensuring a consistent water supply for the community. She diligently maintained the water system, raising awareness about the importance of clean water and its impact on health. Her tireless efforts earned her immense respect and recognition from the villagers, who began valuing the benefits of safe drinking water under her guidance.

### A New Chapter with Jal Jeevan Mission

In 2023, Adilakshmi's dedication was further recognized when Mangapuram was selected for the installation of the In-Line Chlorination (ILC) device under the Jal Jeevan Mission, supported by Evidence Action. This marked a turning point for both the village and Adilakshmi.

She mastered the operation of the ILC device, becoming proficient in tasks like dose testing, valve management, and chlorine level measurement using the Hanna device—an expertise unmatched in her village. With the support of the rural water and sanitation department, *Jal Samiti*, SHG, ASHA, and ANM, she encouraged and organized various community meetings at the *Gram Sabha* and Panchayat level to spread awareness about the importance of safe water.

Her leadership led to the adoption of chlorinated water by the entire community, significantly reducing waterborne diseases. She also collaborated with village and mandal officials to establish a monthly tank cleaning schedule, ensuring sustained hygiene and safety. Adilakshmi's efforts not only improved public health but also inspired others in the community to prioritize clean water.

### A Voice for Change

In October 2024, Adilakshmi applied for an official appointment as the



Figure 9: Smt. Tamminedi Adilakshmi, Mangapuram village, Palanadu District, Andhra Pradesh at the National Safe Water Dialogue, India Water Week, 2024 | Source: Evidence Action





Figure 10: Smt. Tamminedi Adilakshmi operating the ILC device | Source: Evidence Action

*'Earlier we were experiencing some of the waterborne diseases but now there is a reduction of waterborne diseases in the village and I am very happy to share that chlorination has brought this difference in our life'.*

## Empowering Communities, Inspiring Others

Adilakshmi's story is a testament to the transformative power of Jal Jeevan Mission and its focus on empowering women to lead community-driven change. Her journey from a self-help group member to a community leader and mentor showcases how government bodies like the Jal Jeevan Mission are not just improving infrastructure but also empowering women to create sustainable change. Adilakshmi stands as a role model for others, proving that one woman's dedication can transform an entire community.

Through her work, Smt. Tamminedi Adilakshmi exemplifies the spirit of women empowerment and the success of Jal Jeevan Mission in making villages healthier, stronger, and self-reliant.

pump operator. Her work and commitment were further acknowledged when she participated in the National Safe Water Dialogue in New Delhi at the India Water Week, organized by Jal Jeevan Mission. There, she shared her experiences with the ILC project, highlighting the positive changes brought about by chlorination in her village.

She proudly shared that Jal Jeevan Mission has played a pivotal role in not just providing access to water but ensuring that it's safe to consume with ILC device usage. Initially, people had some difficulties accepting it but slowly after awareness at the community meetings and explaining the benefits of the chlorine water, they have adapted to it. *She said,*



Figure 11: Community members discussing about the importance of safe drinking water | Source: Evidence Action



## From Hardship to Hope: Nur Jahan's Triumph with Clean Water for a Brighter Future

- Parikh Shukla  
WASH Expert for JJM & SBM-G  
in Ladakh  
- Lopamudra Panda  
NPMU-NJJM

For 36-year-old Nur Jahan, a resident of Padum in the remote Zaskar Valley of Ladakh, life was once a daily battle against nature's harsh realities. Her days revolved around a grueling struggle – fetching water for her family from a river 4 kilometers away. The journey was perilous, marked by treacherous rocky terrain, and carrying heavy containers of water made it even more exhausting. The water itself was unsafe, leading to frequent illnesses in her household.

Nur Jahan's life was defined by this relentless task. Hours spent fetching water left little room for personal aspirations, and education remained a distant dream for her and her children. Often, her children missed

school to help carry water, robbing them of the chance for a brighter future. The situation seemed hopeless, with no apparent solution to break the cycle of hardship.

### The Turning Point: Jal Jeevan Mission

The arrival of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Nur Jahan's village marked a transformative moment. Despite the harsh climatic conditions and the challenging terrain of Zaskar Valley, the mission's team embarked on an ambitious project to bring piped water supply to the village. This was no easy feat. Ladakh's freezing temperatures and rocky landscape required innovative technology solutions and meticulous planning.

Engineers employed insulated pipes to prevent water from freezing in sub-zero temperatures, a common issue in high-altitude regions like Ladakh. Solar-powered pumping systems were also installed to ensure uninterrupted water supply, even in areas with limited access to electricity. This eco-friendly approach not only addressed the logistical challenges but also aligned with the region's sustainability goals.

Within months, pipelines were laid, and a tap was installed right near Nur Jahan's home. The change was immediate and profound. No longer did she need to traverse long, dangerous paths to fetch water. Clean, safe water was now just a few steps away.



Figure 12: Nur Jahan with her insulated household tap water connection | Source: PHED Ladakh





Figure 13: Nur Jahan with tap water | Source: PHED Ladakh

## Transforming Lives

For Nur Jahan, the impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission was life-changing. *"It's not just water—it's hope,"* she shares. With access to safe drinking water, her family's health improved dramatically. Water-borne diseases, which once plagued her household, became a thing of the past. The time previously spent fetching water was now devoted to more meaningful activities.

Her children, freed from the responsibility of collecting water, resumed their education. Nur Jahan speaks with pride about sending them to school regularly, confident that they now have a chance at a better future. *"My children can dream now," she says. "They have time to study, play, and grow into healthy, educated adults."*

For Nur Jahan herself, the change has been equally empowering. With more time on her hands, she has started learning new skills, including sewing, which she hopes to turn into a source of income. Her days are no longer consumed by the back-breaking task of fetching water; instead, they are filled with purpose and optimism.

## Innovative Technology: A Game Changer in Ladakh

The success of Jal Jeevan Mission in Nur Jahan's village and across Ladakh can be attributed to the innovative technology solutions tailored to the region's unique challenges. Insulated pipelines and solar-powered water pumps have proven to be critical in ensuring a reliable water supply in extreme weather conditions.

Another innovative approach used in the region is gravity-based water distribution systems. Leveraging Ladakh's natural topography, engineers designed systems that transport water from higher altitudes to villages below, eliminating the need for extensive mechanical pumping. This not only reduced costs but also minimized the environmental footprint of the project.

Additionally, community involvement played a vital role. Villagers were trained to operate and maintain the water supply systems, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring the project's long-term sustainability. Awareness campaigns and capacity-building programs further empowered communities to manage their resources effectively.

## A Brighter Future

The ripple effects of Jal Jeevan Mission are visible across the Zaskar Valley and beyond. Access to clean water has improved health, education, and livelihoods, transforming entire communities. For women like Nur Jahan, it has brought freedom, dignity, and opportunities previously out of reach.

*"I can finally dream for my children," Nur Jahan says with a smile. "They no longer have to suffer like I did."* Her story is a testament to the power of clean water in breaking the cycle of poverty and hardship.

As Jal Jeevan Mission continues to bring water to the remotest corners of India, Ladakh stands as an example of how innovation, determination, and community involvement can overcome even the most formidable challenges. For Nur Jahan and countless others, the journey from struggle to strength underscores the profound impact of access to clean water – a basic necessity that has become a beacon of hope for a better future.



## From Struggle to Relief:

### Phulo's Journey of Clean Water in Parakot

- Utkarsha Rathi  
NJJM

\*\*Inputs from PHED Chhattisgarh

**R**ight in the heart of Bastar district, the village of Parakot in Chhattisgarh is a scenic place, surrounded by dense forests and lush greenery. But for its 163 residents, life wasn't as serene as the surroundings suggested. Water scarcity was a harsh reality that dominated their daily lives.

For Phulo, a young woman from Parakot, fetching water was an exhausting chore. Every morning, she would set out with a heavy pot on her head, walking miles to distant wells or boreholes. *"Jal ke liye safar roz ki kathinai thi"* (The journey for water was a daily struggle), she recalls.

The long treks left her and the other women physically drained and often irritable, overshadowing the simple



Figure 14: Sarpanch Dhaniram Kashyap | Source: PHED, Chhattisgarh

*"The daily journey for water was a constant struggle," says Phulo. "I always feared that the water pot would fall or I might trip on the way." Her words reflect the hardship, where the weight of the water pot and the long journey had become a symbol of the entire community's suffering." Phulo*

joys of life. The village's water sources were far from reliable. During dry months, boreholes often ran dry, leaving families to ration what little they had. The burden of fetching water disproportionately fell on women, with pregnant women like Phulo facing even greater challenges. This relentless task not only caused physical fatigue but also deprived them of time for family, rest, or productive work.

*"I always feared falling or spilling the water after walking so far,"* says Phulo. The weight of the water pot and the distance she had to cover became a symbol of the hardship faced by the entire community.

Jal Jeevan Mission brought hope to Parakot. With support from the local panchayat and community leaders like Sarpanch Dhaniram Kashyap, the Mission introduced two solar-powered water supply systems to the village. These systems, designed to harness renewable energy, ensured an uninterrupted supply of clean water to every household through functional household tap connections (FHTCs).

But as the solar panels were installed, pipelines laid, and taps set up in each household, hope began to replace doubt. The day Phulo turned on the tap in her home for the first time, she was overcome with emotion. *"Ab*





Figure 15: Beneficiary, Phulo getting water from FHTC | Source: PHED, Chhattisgarh

*“paani mere sir par nahi, mere ghar mein hai”* (Now water is not on my head; it's in my home), she said, tears of relief streaming down her face.

Her life transformed entirely. With water readily available, she no longer had to wake up early to make the long trek to the well. The time once spent fetching water is now used to care for her family and grow vegetables in her backyard. Her health has improved, and she feels less tired and more at peace.

The change has extended far beyond individual homes. The health of the villagers, especially children, has improved as they now drink clean water. Women, relieved of the daily burden of fetching water, have formed self-help groups and started small businesses. Pregnant women, once at risk due to the physical demands of fetching water, now enjoy better care and rest.

*“Life feels lighter,”* says Phulo. *“There's no longer the daily worry about where to find water.”* Jal Jeevan Mission has reshaped life in Parakot, bringing clean water to every home and restoring dignity and joy to its

people. For Phulo and others in the village, the taps symbolize more than water – they represent a future where hardship is replaced with opportunity.

*“Paani ka aana, zindagi mein sudhar lana hai”* (The arrival of water is the improvement of life), says Phulo, her

words echoing the hope that now flows through Parakot.

The introduction of Jal Jeevan Mission in Parakot has dramatically transformed this scenario. With the installation of two (02) solar pump-based water supply systems, equipped with a capacity of 12 meters and 10 kilolitres, the distribution of water has become viable and efficient. As a result, households now enjoy functional household tap connections (FHTCs), ensuring a regular supply of clean water. Sarpanch, Dhaniram Kashyap attests to the positive impact, noting that the removal of the water-fetching burden has significantly improved the well-being of women, especially pregnant women who previously faced additional challenges.

Jal Jeevan Mission serves as a vital intervention that addresses the critical issue of water scarcity in rural India. The tangible improvements seen in Parakot, as evidenced by enhanced health and a better quality of life for its residents, emphasize the importance of such initiatives.



Figure 16: Solar pump-based water supply systems | Source: PHED, Chhattisgarh



# The Dream of Safe Water Comes True

Improved Economic Conditions and  
a Shared Sense of Participation

- Lopamudra Panda  
NPMU-NJJM

\*\*Inputs from Jal Nigam MP

The story of Amavali Mahal village is one of remarkable transformation, showcasing how access to safe drinking water can revolutionize daily life and improve overall well-being. Situated in Neemuch Tehsil of Neemuch District, Madhya Pradesh, this small village, part of Aamavali Mahal Panchayat, was once plagued by acute drinking water scarcity. Home to 191 tribal and non-tribal families who primarily depend on agriculture and labour for their livelihood, the village faced a dire water crisis for decades.

## The Crisis: Struggles of the Past

The villagers vividly recall their struggles before the implementation of the Nal-Jal Yojana. The entire community relied on just one or two public taps connected to a common

tubewell, which would frequently run dry, especially during the scorching summer months. Women bore the brunt of this crisis. *"Fetching water from wells and hand pumps consumed hours of our day. Often, we reached our workplaces late, leading to wage deductions,"* a group of women shared during a focus group discussion.

Some even recounted falling while carrying heavy water pots, making their task not just exhaustive but dangerous. For many, the effort to secure water often led to missed work opportunities and declining incomes. *"Our economic condition suffered because we spent so much time fetching water,"* explained one of the villagers. This unrelenting hardship not only drained their physical energy but also left them feeling hopeless about the future.

## The Turning Point: Jal Jeevan Mission

The arrival of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) marked a pivotal moment in the lives of the villagers. The Mission brought not only the promise of safe drinking water but also the hope of a better future. The community members actively participated in planning and implementing the tap water supply system, supported by capacity-building training sessions that emphasized local leadership, ownership, and the importance of community involvement.

The villagers describe the initiative as life-changing. Women, in particular, expressed relief, saying, *"Our quality of life has improved immensely. Instead of spending hours fetching water, we can now focus on our families and work."* This sense of



Figure 17: Focus Group Discussion | Source: Neemuch District





Figure 18: A happy beneficiary of JJM | Source: Neemuch District

societal roles. Villagers have also developed a deeper understanding of water conservation. *"We take only as much water as we need because we now understand its value,"* one resident explained. This mindset has fostered a culture of sustainability, ensuring that resources are used judiciously.

## A New Beginning

For the residents of Amavali Mahal, Jal Jeevan Mission represents more than just a solution to their water woes. It symbolises a brighter, more hopeful future. The programme has brought the community together, instilling a sense of unity, responsibility, and pride in their achievements.

Villagers expressed their gratitude for the mission, saying, *"It has not only solved our water crisis but also taught us the importance of community effort and leadership."* The sense of ownership cultivated through this initiative has empowered the villagers to take charge of their own development.

The story of Amavali Mahal is a shining example of how access to basic necessities like safe drinking water can transform lives. By addressing a fundamental need, the Jal Jeevan Mission has improved health, education, and economic productivity while fostering a spirit of community participation and leadership.

Today, the residents of Amavali Mahal are no longer defined by the struggles of their past. Instead, they stand as a testament to what can be achieved when communities come together with the right support and resources. Their journey is a reminder that even the most challenging problems can be overcome through collaboration, empowerment, and determination.

ownership extended beyond installation. The community was trained to manage and sustain the system themselves.

Under the programme, **every household pays ₹60 per month**, which goes toward the pump operator's honorarium, electricity bills, and other maintenance expenses. This collective effort has ensured the smooth and uninterrupted functioning of the water supply system.

## A Model of Community Participation

The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) has played a crucial role in this transformation. The committee partnered with the Paryajeevnika Self-Help Group (SHG) to manage operations and maintenance. This collaboration has not only ensured sustainability but has also created a sense of responsibility among the villagers. Water is now provided at a fixed time each day, with every villager receiving 55 liters of water per person.

The success of this system is a testament to the villagers' dedication

and the effectiveness of the capacity-building programmes conducted under JJM. Villagers shared that regular meetings and training sessions helped them understand the importance of water conservation, community contributions, and the role of local leadership in ensuring the mission's success.

## Transformational Impact

The impact of these changes is evident across multiple aspects of village life. Girls, who previously had to skip school to fetch water, now attend classes regularly. Women, freed from the arduous task of fetching water, can dedicate more time to childcare and income-generating activities. *"We feel energetic throughout the day and are more productive in our work,"* the villagers shared.

The economic condition of the village has also improved significantly. With more time available for farming and other labor-intensive tasks, households are earning better than in previous years. Women have also begun participating more actively in community decision-making, further boosting their confidence and



# Empowering Rural Lives through Jal Jeevan Mission:

## The Transformation of Kannapanthal Village Panchayat

- Lopamudra Panda  
NPMU-NJJM

\*\*Inputs from RD & PR Department  
Tamil Nadu

The transformative flagship programme – Jal Jeevan Mission has made a significant impact on numerous villages across India, including Kannapanthal Village Panchayat in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu.

Kannapanthal Village Panchayat, located in the Tiruvannamalai Block of Tamil Nadu, comprises two habitations with a total population of 1,437. Spread across eight streets, the Panchayat consists of 393 households. Before the implementation of JJM, residents depended on a limited supply of water, creating numerous challenges in their daily lives.

Before JJM's intervention, Kannapanthal's residents were receiving only 40 liters per capita per day (LPCD) of water. Drinking water was supplied through just ten public taps and on a time-bound schedule. Families often waited for hours in



Figure 19: Tmt. Chinnappa with her tap connection | Source: PHED Tamil Nadu

queues to collect water, leading to disputes, delayed work schedules, and significant physical strain, particularly for women, senior citizens, and the differently-abled. Water storage for prolonged periods

by people also posed health risks, leading to waterborne diseases.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, each household in Kannapanthal was provided with a dedicated tap connection, ensuring an uninterrupted supply of 55 LPCD potable water. This intervention has had a transformative impact:

- 💧 **Improved Access and Convenience:** Residents now have access to water at their doorsteps, saving significant time and effort.
- 💧 **Health Benefits:** The elimination of water storage practices has reduced waterborne diseases.
- 💧 **Enhanced Livelihoods:** With the burden of fetching water lifted, individuals, especially women, can now focus on income-generating activities.

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*Earlier, we had to travel long distances to fetch drinking water from the public tap in our panchayat. We'd store water for 2-3 days, which often led to waterborne illnesses. However, with the JJM scheme, our homes now have piped drinking water connections. This has not only prevented water wastage but also resolved common issues related to drinking water. We now have access to clean drinking water 24/7, and we're protected from waterborne diseases since we no longer need to store water.*

says Tmt. Chinnappa, an elderly women of the village.

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Figure 20: Tmt. Navaneedham with her tap connection | Source: PHED Tamil Nadu

“

Tmt. Navaneedham a resident, recounted how disputes over public taps and long waiting hours are now a thing of the past. *"Before getting a household tap connection, my family and I would wait for hours with pots at the public tap to collect drinking water. Frequent quarrels would erupt among neighbours and me over accessing the tap. Now, I'm relieved to have a steady water supply right at my doorstep, without any interruptions or disputes."* she said.

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Another resident, Tmt. Vanitha, an agricultural worker, expressed relief at the time saved. *"As an agricultural worker in my village and neighboring areas, I used to spend a significant amount of time fetching drinking water from the public tap. This often led to missed wages and delayed meal preparations for my family. Consequently, my children would also be late for school. However, with the tap connection provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission, our lives have become much easier. We now save a considerable amount of time, and my family members and I can head to the agricultural fields without any delay."*

”

◆ **Social Harmony:** The removal of public tap dependency has eradicated disputes, fostering community peace.

◆ **Inclusion:** Senior citizens and differently-abled individuals no longer rely on others for their water needs.

The residents of Kannapanthal are happy to receive quality water in ample quantity and in a regular basis. While sharing their heartfelt experiences, they have highlighted the profound changes brought by JJM in their lives.

Jal Jeevan Mission has not only ensured safe drinking water for Kannapanthal's residents but has also upheld their fundamental right to water. This initiative has transformed their quality of life, empowering individuals and fostering community development.

The success of Kannapanthal Village Panchayat stands as a testament to the profound impact of JJM, exemplifying how access to safe drinking water can revolutionize rural lives. As this mission continues to expand, it paves the way for a healthier, more equitable future for rural India.

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Tmt. Dhanalakshmi, residing in the village's middle street, noted the predictability and convenience of the new water supply says, *"Previously, we received drinking water at public tap points only once every two days, and sometimes even after three days. We had to keep track of the water supply timings. However, thanks to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), I now have a tap connection right at my doorstep. This new facility has been incredibly useful for my family, saving us time and allowing us to head to our agricultural work without any delay."*

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## Tap Water reaches Barmer Village, over 700 km away from Narmada

- Shri Sonaram  
SE, Barmer, PHED Rajasthan  
and  
- Amit Ranjan  
NPMU-NJJM

**N**armada river is India's 5<sup>th</sup> Longest River starting from Madhya Pradesh, Amar Kantak. In a landscape dominated by sand dunes, Sundra village is situated 170 km from Barmer district headquarters on the India-Pakistan border. People living here traditionally depended on 'beris' or deep wells for drinking water, but they dried up over the years and three tube wells provide water in Sundra. The water though is excessively saline.

Nenu Devi from the village recollects that when she first arrived at her in-laws' house from her parental home in Bandhra 45 years ago, she struggled to get drinking water for days. She would lament to her parents about the dreadful conditions here. This Sunday (24.11.2024), the 80-year-old witnessed a 'miracle':

drinking water flowing from a tap in her house. It was no less miraculous for 60-year-old Roopi Devi, another villager, which has come about through the tireless efforts of engineers, who overcame numerous obstacles to bring water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River, 728 km away, to every household in Sundra.

Other villages in Gadra Rod and Ramsar areas are expected to receive tap water soon. The vast expanse of desert, with shifting sand dunes made the terrain treacherous and posed great difficulties to laying pipelines.

Under the Union Govt's Jal Jeevan Mission, the task was revived and given a fresh impetus. Sonaram Beniwal, Additional Chief Engineer of

the Narmada Canal-based drinking water project, said "the brief was to supply drinking water from Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat to the desert region in Barmer."

The ambitious project, costing Rs 513 crore, was meant to bring water to 110 villages in Gadra Rod and 95 villages in Ramsar area of Barmer. It involved construction of 16 main storage sites, pumping stations, and elevated service reservoirs at 86 different locations in Gadra Rod and Ramsar. Girdhar Singh Sodha, a resident of Sundra, said that for years, people journeyed 15 to 20 km to villages like Modrdi, Drabha, Boi, Girab, and Bandhra to bring water for livestock. The groundwater was so hard that even animals refused to drink it.

The village head of Sundra said numerous residents had fallen ill due to consumption of mineral-heavy groundwater. Deformities and premature ageing were common in every household, he said, as the water corroded bones and led to bone degeneration. On Sunday, the planning and execution finally borne fruit as every household in Sundra began receiving clean drinking water. Other villages in Gadra Rod and Ramsar areas are expected to receive tap water soon. In a recent visit of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan to Talmora village, Barmer district; he has shown satisfaction towards Har Ghar Jal Initiative in reaching deserted villages.



Figure 21: Happiness reaches at door-step | Source: Ashok Singh, IEC Coordinator, PHED, BARMER, Rajasthan

# जल जीवन मिशन ग्राम मुड़पार की नई सुबह

- कैलाश मंडेरिया  
कार्यपालक अभियंता सह नोडल  
पदाधिकारी आईईसी  
और  
- अमित रंजन  
एनजेजेएम

बेमेतरा जिले से महज 05 किलो मीटर दूरी पर स्थित छोटा सा ग्राम मुड़पार जहां 21 वीं सदी में लोग पीने की पानी जैसी मूलभूत सुविधाओं से वंचित थे। जिला मुख्यालय से करीब होने के बावजूद पर भी मूलभूत सुविधाओं मुख्यतः पेयजल के लिए ग्रामवासी अपने आप को उपेक्षित महसूस करते थे। पानी के लगातार दोहन से भू-जल स्तर पर भी काफी नीचे जाता जा रहा है। जिन में पेयजल एवं कृषि कार्य हेतु होने वाले ट्यूबवेल जल स्तर गिराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका में रहे हैं। ऐसे में जल जीवन मिशन योजना एक नई सुबह बनकर ग्रामवासियों के जीवन में उजाला लाने का एक सफल प्रयास साबित हुआ है।

## ग्राम के पृष्ठ भूमि

ग्राम मुड़पार जिला मुख्यालय से लगभग 05 किलो मीटर की दूरी पर मुख्यालय से पश्चिम दिशा में स्थित ग्राम है। ग्राम की जनसंख्या लगभग 600 है। पेयजल हेतु ग्राम में 02 हैण्डपंप एवं 05 पॉवर पंप उपलब्ध है। गर्मी के दिनों में भू-जल के अत्यधिक दोहन के परिणाम स्वरूप हैण्डपंप अपना दम तोड़ देते हैं तथा पॉवर पंप से जल आवक क्षमता अत्यधिक कम हो जाता है। जिससे

ग्रामवासियों के समक्ष पेयजल की विकराल समस्या उत्पन्न हो जाती है।

## समस्या से समाधान तक का सफर

वर्ष 2021 की जनसंख्या के अनुसार गांव में लगभग 600 लोग जिसमें 175 परिवार निवासरत हैं। जल जीवन मिशन से पूर्व यहां के लोगों को पेयजल एवं निस्तारी हेतु सार्वजनिक हैण्डपंपों पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता था, बरसात एवं गर्मी के दिनों में यहां स्थिति और भी चुनौतिपूर्ण हो जाती थी, इस स्थिति से खासकर महिलाओं एवं बच्चों को अधिक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता था। इनका अधिकतर समय पानी की व्यवस्था में बित जाता था। जल जीवन मिशन योजना ने इस कठिनाई को दूर करने का कार्य किया इस कार्य में गांव में उच्चस्तरीय जलागार का निर्माण हुआ एवं ग्राम में पाईप लाईन का माध्यम से हर घर तक नल से स्वच्छ पेयजल आपूर्ति को सुनिश्चित किया।

## ग्रामवासी की जुबानी सफलता की कहानी

ग्राम की निवासी श्रीमती धानबाई और पार्वती यादव ने अपनी खुशी जाहिर करते हुए बताया

पहले पानी के लिए सार्वजनिक हैण्डपंप एवं पॉवर पंप पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता था। सुबह-सुबह पानी भरने में इतना समय लग जाता था कि बच्चों को स्कूल और आंगनबाड़ी के लिए देर हो जाती थी। अब नल से घर में पानी मिलने से समय की बचत हो रही है। हमारे जीवन में बड़ा बदलाव आया मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी का अभार व्यक्त करती हूँ। यह योजना चलाकर हमारे जीवन को बेहतर बनाया।

## हर घर जल का जश्न एवं जल संरक्षण का संकल्प

ग्रामवासियों ने जल जीवन मिशन की सफलता को हर घर जल उत्सव के रूप में मनाया, इस उत्सव में ग्रामीणों ने केवल अपनी खुशी जाहिर कि बल्कि इस योजना के महत्व को समझते हुए जल संरक्षण का संकल्प भी लिया। गांव के हर व्यक्ति ने इसे जीवन को आसान और स्वास्थ्य बनाने वाला कदम बताया।

## जल जीवन मिशन का सफल क्रियान्वयन

जल जीवन मिशन योजना के सफलता ने ग्रामवासियों के सहयोग की भी अपेक्षा रहती हैं। ग्राम मुड़पार ने दिखा दिया कि जल सरकारी योजना सही तरीके से लागू होती है तो विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जा सकती है। जल जीवन मिशन ने न केवल स्वच्छ पानी की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की बल्कि ग्रामीणों की जीवन को सुविधा जनक समयबद्ध और स्वच्छ बनाया।

आज जल जीवन मिशन की सफलता का एक प्रेरणा दायक उदाहरण है। यह गांव न केवल अपने उलब्धियों पर गर्व कर रहा है, बल्कि पुरे देश को एक संदेश दे रहा है - सूनियोजित प्रयासों से हर सपना पुरा हो सकता है।



Figure 22: "हर घर जल" उत्सव, ग्राम मुड़पार

## शुद्ध जल से विकलांगता का अंत: परमारखेड़ी में एक नई सुबह

- शैलिका सिन्हा  
एनजेजेएम

\*\*Inputs from Jal Nigam MP

मध्यप्रदेश के उज्जैन जिले के विश्व प्रसिद्ध धार्मिक स्थल महाकाल की नगरी से 48 किलोमीटर दूर, चंबल नदी के किनारे बसा ग्राम परमारखेड़ी एक समय शुद्ध पानी के अभाव में त्रस्त था। प्रदूषित पानी, विशेषकर फ्लोराइड युक्त जल के सेवन ने गाँव के लोगों को बीमारियों और विकलांगता के अभिशाप में जकड़ लिया था।

वर्ष 2019-20 में इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए खाचरौद ब्लॉक के 22 गाँवों को शामिल करते हुए समूह जल प्रदाय योजना का शुभारंभ किया गया। इस योजना के तहत परमारखेड़ी गाँव के 250 घरों में से 200 परिवारों को नल कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराए गए और शुद्ध पेयजल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की गई।

### पानी की बूँदों से बंधी उम्मीद की डोर

ग्राम पेयजल उप समिति के अध्यक्ष श्री गोपाल जी गुर्जर, सरपंच श्री नरसिंह सिसौदिया, सचिव कन्हैयालाल और श्रीमती भंवर बाई बताते हैं कि – “ग्राम में पानी आने का उत्सव मनाया गया। जल वितरण के पहले दिन पूरे गाँव ने रैली निकाली, माँ नर्मदा और माँ चंबल का स्वागत किया और नलों का पूजन किया। आरती उतारी गई और नारियल फोड़कर जल को देवतुल्य मानकर उसका अभिनंदन किया गया।”

शुद्ध पेयजल मिलने से गाँव में धीरे-धीरे चमत्कारिक परिवर्तन दिखने लगे हैं। बच्चों में विकलांगता के मामले घटने लगे हैं, बीमारियाँ कम हो रही हैं, और गाँव का हर परिवार अब खुशहाल जिंदगी की ओर बढ़ रहा है। लोग नलों से निकलते स्वच्छ जल को भाई की तरह मानकर, रक्षासूत्र बाँधते हैं और उसे अपनी खुशहाली का प्रतीक मानते हैं।

### विश्वास और उल्लास का नया दौर

परमारखेड़ी के ग्रामीणजन आज माननीय प्रधानमंत्री और मुख्यमंत्री के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त करते हुए कहते हैं कि – “शुद्ध पानी ने

हमारी जिंदगी बदल दी है। यह केवल पानी नहीं है, यह हमारे लिए आशा, स्वास्थ्य और एक नई शुरुआत का उपहार है।”

यह कहानी सिर्फ पानी की आपूर्ति की नहीं, बल्कि जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार और आशा के पुनर्जन्म की है। जल जीवन मिशन ने परमारखेड़ी गाँव को विकलांगता और बीमारियों के दंश से मुक्त कर, उत्साह और उम्मीद का नया सवेरा दिया है। यह गाँव अब एक ऐसा उदाहरण बन गया है, जो यह साबित करता है कि जब समर्पण और सही प्रयास होते हैं, तो हर कठिनाई का हल संभव है।



Figure 23: पानी की बूँदों से बंधी उम्मीद की डोर



# From Frozen Struggles to Flowing Hope

Jal Jeevan Mission's Triumph in  
Drass and Zanskar

- Asif Bashir Rather  
District IEC expert JJM Kargil  
and  
- Lopamudra Panda  
NPMU-NJJM



Figure 24: Ease of access to water has brought smiles on faces of students | Source: PHED Kargil Division

The remote Himalayan regions of Drass and Zanskar, nestled in Ladakh, are renowned for their breathtaking beauty and harsh, unforgiving winters. For decades, these communities battled nature's extreme challenges, struggling to secure one of life's most essential resources, clean water. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched by the Government of India, has rewritten this story of hardship into one of progress and dignity.

This official account chronicles the incredible journey of how clean water was brought to these isolated valleys, overcoming geographical, climatic, and logistical barriers.

## Drass: From Survival to Renewal

Drass, famously recognized as the second coldest inhabited place on

Earth, lies at an altitude of 10,800 feet amidst the majestic Tololing and Tiger Hill ranges. Temperatures in winter plummet to a staggering -40°C, freezing streams, pipelines, and even hope itself. Before the intervention of the Jal Jeevan Mission, life in Drass was defined by relentless struggle.

Residents had no access to running water during the harsh winter months. **Shafiq Bano**, a 38-year-old mother, recount their daily ordeal: *"Every day, I walked 4 kilometres to fetch water from a frozen stream. The icy paths were dangerous, and the water was unsafe for drinking. It affected our health and left my children missing school to help me."*

Men, too, faced perilous conditions. **Mohd Amin**, a residence, described breaking through thick ice to access frozen water sources: *"Each trip was*

*a gamble. Injuries were common, and some of us wondered if we could survive another winter."*

Jal Jeevan Mission marked a turning point. Engineers from the Public Health Engineering Department Kargil employed innovative techniques to combat Drass's extreme conditions:

- Pipelines were laid 5 feet underground and insulated to prevent freezing.
- Reservoirs were thermally protected to ensure uninterrupted water storage.
- Bleeding points were installed to maintain water flow even during sub-zero temperatures.

The results have been nothing short of transformative. Families now have access to clean, reliable water, directly at their homes. Women no longer trek miles for water, children attend school regularly, and waterborne diseases have drastically declined.

Neighbouring villages such as Matayeen, Mushkoo Valley, Goshan, Pandrass, Holiyal, Bhimbat, Chowkiyal, Thasgam, Kharboo, Shimsha and Rambirpura have experienced similar changes.

**Bilal Ahmed Sheikh**, another resident of Matayeen, highlights the difference: *"During winters, bathing was once a luxury we could barely afford. Now, clean water has become a part of daily life, restoring health and dignity to our lives."*





Figure 25: Children are happy to have flowing water | Source: PHED Kargil Division

## Zanskar: Battling Isolation with Ingenuity

Zanskar, located at an altitude of 4,401 to 4,450 meters and spread over 5,000 square kilometers, is a region of unparalleled beauty and extreme isolation. Home to approximately 16,000 residents, this remote valley is often cut off from the world during its long winters, which last up to six months. Water scarcity was a harsh reality, as public standposts—the only source of water—froze solid in sub-zero temperatures, leaving communities helpless.

Jal Jeevan Mission brought a ground-breaking transformation to Zanskar. Recognizing the region's unique challenges, the PHED adopted specialized engineering solutions:

- Solar-powered submersible pumps ensured a continuous water supply.
- Underground insulated pipelines were installed to combat freezing conditions.
- Dedicated winter lines and specialized delivery points using insulated HDPE pipes and

concealed gate valves safeguarded against extreme cold.

Schools, Anganwadi Centres and healthcare facilities were prioritized. Clean water connections were established, and solar water heaters were installed to ensure warmth and hygiene. Teachers and healthcare workers reported significant improvements in attendance, hygiene practices, and overall community health.

*"The impact is beyond words," says an Anganwadi worker. "Children now wash their hands regularly, and illnesses have reduced. Water has brought not just cleanliness but also hope."*

## Overcoming Challenges: A Monumental Task

The implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Ladakh required overcoming extraordinary challenges. The Chief Engineer, PHED Ladakh, described the scale of the task:

- Geographic isolation: Many villages lacked motorable roads, requiring materials to be transported via helicopters, animals, and manual labor.

- Extreme temperatures: The freezing climate caused pipes to burst and water to freeze, necessitating innovative engineering solutions.
- Rugged terrain: Engineers navigated steep, snow-covered landscapes to lay pipelines and construct reservoirs.

Despite these obstacles, the PHED team, supported by local communities and government officials, persisted with unwavering determination. The use of HDPE-insulated pipes, solar energy, and community-driven maintenance ensured the project's long-term success.

## A New Dawn for Drass and Zanskar

The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission extends far beyond providing clean water. It has transformed the very fabric of life in Drass and Zanskar:

- Health: Waterborne diseases have significantly declined, improving the overall well-being of residents.
- Education: Children now attend school regularly, free from the burden of fetching water.
- Empowerment: Women have more time to focus on their families and livelihoods, fostering greater independence.
- Dignity: Access to clean water has restored a sense of pride and dignity to these communities.

For the residents of Kargil, Jal Jeevan Mission is more than a government initiative—it is a lifeline. *"Clean water has changed everything,"* they say.

## A Story of Hope, Innovation, and Resilience

The success of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Drass and Zanskar stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when innovation meets





Figure 26: Water Supply infrastructure | Source: PHED Kargil Division

determination. It reflects the government's commitment to improving lives in even the most challenging regions and the resilience of communities to rise above adversity.

Today, the clean water that flows through Drass and Zanskar is more than a resource – it is a symbol of hope, progress, and unity. This transformation is a reminder that no matter how harsh the conditions, human ingenuity and collective effort can overcome even the most formidable challenges.

Drass and Zanskar now stand as shining examples of how Jal Jeevan Mission has not only provided water but has also infused life, dignity, and optimism into these frozen valleys of Ladakh.



Figure 27: Smiles on faces of children having FHTC | Source: PHED Kargil Division



# Stories of Empowerment and Transformation:

Bringing Tribal Communities Closer to  
Mainstream Through Jal Jeevan Mission

- Archana Pandey  
Manager-Content  
and

- Monideepa Das  
Officer- Documentation and  
Reporting; WaterAid India

Nestled within the lush heartlands of India, where ancient forests whisper tales of heritage and resilience, live tribal communities whose lives exemplify extraordinary strength and perseverance. Representing 8.6% of the nation's population (Census 2011), these communities are the custodians of rich cultural traditions that have been passed down through generations. Their deep-rooted connection to the land, forests, and natural resources reflects an intrinsic understanding of environmental stewardship. They possess invaluable wisdom about sustainable living, honed over centuries of co-existing harmoniously with nature. Despite facing immense challenges, including marginalisation, limited access to basic services, and the pressures of modernity, these communities continue to embody resilience and an unwavering spirit of survival. Their diverse traditions, languages, and art forms stand as a testament to the enduring strength of India's indigenous cultures. In their daily lives, they navigate a delicate balance between preserving their heritage and adapting to an ever-changing world. Their remarkable ability to thrive in the face of adversity serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring connection between culture, nature, and the human spirit.

The *Gonds* and *Santhals*, known for their vibrant cultural legacies rooted in music, dance, folklore, and a deep connection to their ancestral lands, face significant socio-economic

challenges. Predominantly inhabiting Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha, these communities endure inadequate access to education, healthcare, and employment, compounded by poor housing and a lack of basic amenities like clean water and sanitation. Geographical and climatic factors, including chemical-laden water sources and erratic rainfall, exacerbate water scarcity and contamination, leading to severe health risks. Limited water infrastructure and aging systems further marginalise these communities, trapping them in cycles of poverty and inequality. Despite their resilience, addressing these critical gaps is essential for ensuring their well-being and enabling sustainable development.

For many, the only water access comes from a single hand pump or shared water sources, often leading to community conflicts and daily struggles. The burden of collecting water, frequently falling on women and children, involves arduous walks to distant streams or wells. This daily routine not only reflects physical hardship but also symbolises the broader struggle of coping with scarce resources and challenging living conditions. In this challenging landscape, WaterAid India has been making significant strides by supporting and connecting tribal communities with Jal Jeevan Mission, an initiative that brings renewed hope and promises to transform lives by ensuring safe and reliable access to clean drinking water ensuring

provision of functional household tap connection (FHTC) a critical solution that addresses long-standing issues of water scarcity and accessibility. By actively involving communities in the decision-making process, operation and maintenance component through creating user groups the Jal Jeevan Mission ensures that the solutions are sustainable and tailored to meet the specific needs of tribal populations, whose lifestyles and needs often differ from those of urban areas. This not only ensures ownership within the community but also helps in the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure created.

Mungli Murmu's testimonial paints a vivid picture of the challenges and triumphs associated with water access in Purba Raipukur. From enduring long waits and conflicts to experiencing the ease brought by a new water system, Mungli's journey underscores the profound effect that improved infrastructure can have on individuals and communities. Her story is a testament to the resilience of those who face adversity and the positive change that thoughtful interventions can bring.

These stories go beyond being mere accounts of the water projects implemented by WaterAid India. They represent a deeper, more transformative process of community engagement and empowerment. The approach begins with understanding the community's needs, followed by building trust and



## Mungli Murmu's Journey from Struggle to Ease

Mungli Murmu, a resident of Purba Raipukur village, Purba Bardhaman in West Bengal has spent 50 years navigating the harsh realities of life in a region plagued by water scarcity. In her testimonial, Mungli shares the profound impact of improved water access on his daily life, her community, and the future of local children.

Mungli reflects on the severe water scarcity her community faced before the installation of a new water tank. *"There was only one hand pump for the entire neighborhood, and we had to wait in long queues for at least twenty minutes to get water. It was exhausting and a constant source of frustration and conflict. Water scarcity affected every aspect of our lives, including washing and bathing, as there was only one pond for all our needs. The waiting and lack of water often led to fights, especially among the children, who would argue and even physically clash in the queues or at the pond. It was a tough and challenging time."*

The installation of a new water tank has significantly changed Mungli's life. *"Since the new tap was installed, life has become much easier. We no longer have to stand in long queues or walk on muddy roads to fetch water. The scarcity is no longer an issue."*

Mungli explains the improvements in daily life: *"Now,*

*water is much more accessible. I don't have to hurry and fight with others to get my share. I can easily store water and use it for cooking, washing utensils, and other daily needs."*

The positive changes extend beyond water access to education and overall well-being. *"Since the installation of the water tank, children in the neighborhood now have more time for their education, which they previously spent fetching water. This has allowed them to focus better on their studies."*

Mungli's story highlights the transformative impact of improved water access on her life and community. *"The new water system has brought a significant change. There are no more fights or shortages. Everyone gets water equally, and the quality of the water is good. It is much better now."*

She concludes with a hopeful outlook: *"The water crisis, which was once a grave issue, is now resolved. Life has become easier, and we can focus on other aspects of our lives. For me, water is of utmost importance, and having a reliable source has made a world of difference."*



Figure 28:  
Mungli Murmu happiness  
reflects from her smile  
Source: WaterAid/OfredStudios



fostering collaboration at every step. WaterAid ensures that community members are not only involved but are key drivers throughout the entire project, helping them recognise the vital need for access to clean drinking water in their homes.

However, the focus extends beyond just providing clean water—it is also about addressing the critical issues of water quality and conservation. Through these projects, communities come to realise the interconnectedness of these challenges and the importance of sustainable water management.

These initiatives are about much more than infrastructure; they are about restoring dignity to people who have long been marginalised by lack of access to basic resources. By giving communities the control and responsibility over their water future, WaterAid empowers them to shape their own path. This approach exemplifies the power of development when it is rooted in empathy, respect, and a deep understanding of the local context, showing that real change is possible when these values guide the process.

In the **Gond tribal hamlet of Deodongar in Kanker, Chhattisgarh**, the community faced a severe crisis caused by water contamination, primarily due to high fluoride levels. This contamination led to debilitating health conditions, including bone deformities and dental fluorosis. Initially, these health issues were misunderstood and attributed to spiritual beliefs. Many villagers thought they had offended their tribal deities, believing this to be the reason behind the deformities plaguing their community. This deep-seated faith in spiritual explanations posed a significant challenge, as changing such entrenched beliefs required persistent effort and sensitive engagement.



Figure 29: Women farmers take a well-deserved rest under the shade near the spring well, a vital source for the community's piped water supply | Source: WaterAid/Archana

The health problems began with symptoms like body aches, low energy, and bone pain, which were often dismissed by medical practitioners as minor issues. Doctors prescribed temporary solutions, such as injections for pain relief, without recognising the underlying cause. Over time, however, the signs of fluoride toxicity became unmistakable. Bone deformities became visibly apparent, and many villagers began to age prematurely, making it almost impossible to guess their actual ages. For women, the situation was even more challenging. Their complaints were often ignored by family members, who dismissed their pain with dismissive remarks like *"kaam na karna pade isliye bahana bana rahe"* (she's just making excuses to avoid work). This attitude not only perpetuated neglect but also highlighted the deeply ingrained gender biases within the community, compounding the struggles of women suffering from these health conditions. Addressing these interconnected issues required not just medical intervention but also a

culturally sensitive approach to dismantle myths, educate the community, and foster a collective understanding of the real cause behind their suffering.

The **Jal Bahinis** emerged as true champions for this tribal hamlet, working tirelessly alongside the field staff of WaterAid India to address the pressing issue of water contamination. Together, they initiated water quality testing to identify chemical contaminants, and the presence of fluoride was confirmed. The community responded with remarkable determination, swiftly marking all fluoride-contaminated handpumps with red paint to prohibit their use. Fortunately, a local spring located near the village was found to provide water fit for consumption. Villagers shared that before the installation of handpumps, they used to rely on this spring for their water needs. However, accessing it had always been a challenge. The spring was situated in a field, requiring villagers to navigate a narrow path to reach it. Additionally, the slow flow of



water made it time-consuming to fill even a single bucket, and carrying the water back home was an arduous task assigned majorly to the women and children.

Through regular meetings with the WaterAid team and the **Jal Bahinis**, the village elders were inspired to take collective action. Recognising the importance of community effort, they rallied together with the shared resolve of *"kuan gaon lana padega"* (we need to bring the well to the village). This marked a pivotal moment in mobilising the community towards a sustainable solution, demonstrating the power of unity and determination in overcoming challenges.

The villagers, driven by a shared vision for change, took their concerns to the Panchayat, urging them to address the issue of water contamination through the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Simultaneously, they began mobilising resources within the community. Gradually, 70 households united, each contributing in whatever way they could. Some offered financial support, while others provided physical labor to make their collective dream a reality. *"Jiske paas jo shakti thi, woh usne kiya"* (Everyone contributed according to their ability), they proudly remarked.

This collaborative spirit sparked swift action. Construction work began, and the process of laying a piped water supply system took shape with the support of Jal Jeevan Mission. The community ensured sustainability by appointing a local pump operator, affectionately called **"Bharos,"** meaning trust. For the villagers, Bharos symbolises reliability—a person they can depend on to manage the water supply responsibly and efficiently during scheduled hours.

A significant transformation was further catalysed by awareness campaigns conducted by local health workers. These initiatives educated the community about the importance of clean drinking water and proper hygiene.

This journey from adversity to empowerment showcases the power of collective action and resilience. It reflects how a community, united by purpose, can overcome challenges and create sustainable solutions for a healthier, more dignified future.

The stories emerging from tribal communities across India under the Jal Jeevan Mission are not just tales of water projects but narratives of transformation and empowerment. These accounts demonstrate how a focused approach to clean water accessibility can address some of the most pressing challenges faced by marginalised communities. Each story reflects the core objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and its profound impact across diverse areas. From Gonds and Santhals to other underserved groups, these initiatives highlight how access to clean drinking water has transformed lives in economically and socially disadvantaged communities. By addressing long-standing inequalities in infrastructure, the mission is bridging the gap and fostering inclusion. The burden of fetching water, traditionally borne by women, is being alleviated, enabling them to lead lives of greater dignity. Access to piped water is not just a convenience; it is a liberation that allows women to pursue education, income-generating activities, and improved health for themselves and their families. Most importantly, they get time for themselves to pursue their hobbies and interests.

In remote hamlets like Deodongar, the challenges of water contamination

and geographical isolation have been addressed with culturally sensitive, community-driven solutions. These efforts have preserved traditional wisdom while integrating modern technology, ensuring that even the most vulnerable tribal populations have access to safe water. Villages like Purba Raipukur exemplify the success of collective action. By participating in planning, contributing resources, and taking ownership of water infrastructure, these communities have become self-reliant, fostering a spirit of unity and responsibility. The availability of clean water has dramatically reduced waterborne diseases, improving overall health outcomes and lowering medical expenses. From reduced fluoride toxicity to improved sanitation, the mission is creating healthier, more resilient communities.

Access to safe water is shaping the future for children and the elderly. Children like those in Mungli Murmu's village can now focus on education rather than fetching water, while the elderly experience improved health and reduced hardship.

These stories are a testament to the transformative power of Jal Jeevan Mission in collaboration with organisations like WaterAid India. They illustrate how a simple yet profound intervention – ensuring access to clean drinking water – can restore dignity, empower individuals, and strengthen communities. By addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term sustainability, the mission is not only changing lives today but shaping a healthier, more equitable future for generations to come. This initiative reminds us that real change happens when development is driven by empathy, inclusivity, and a deep understanding of the unique needs of every community.



## Initiatives by States/ Uts

### Karnataka

RDWSD Karnataka conducted a massive FTK Campaign from 16-26 December, 2024 this post-monsoon season, aiming to test over 3.37 lakh water sources. With the active support of VWSCs and GP, the State is ensuring safe and clean drinking water for every community, aiming to build a healthier Karnataka! *Figure: 30* ▼



### Assam

The Jal Prahari Samman 2024 was conferred on 19th December 2024 by Shri Kailash Karthik N, IAS, MD JJM Assam for the #Jaldoot Initiative. The award was received by Jaldoots - Rakhi Saikia, Durgamoni Bhuyan and Saranga Saikia from Jorhat, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur respectively on behalf of Shri Karthik. The award ceremony was graced by Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhury, Hon'ble MoS for Jal Shakti. *Figure: 31* ▼



### NITI for States

A unified platform to learn, collaborate, and drive action for a #ViksitBharat.

Explore the best water & sanitation practices from across India and access the latest national and regional information on Water & WASH at <https://www.nitiforstates.gov.in/> *Figure: 32* ►





## Social Media Wall





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