

Jal Jeevan Samvad

February | Volume 6 | Issue 02 | Year 2025



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Jal Jeevan Mission
for all



Contents



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

Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission.....2

Foreword by the Secretary, DDWS.....3

Note from the desk of Additional Secretary & Mission Director4

JJM Progress

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)5

Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ Uts.....5

Articles

2nd All India State water ministers' conference 2025
- *Amit Ranjan*7

Transforming Lives: The Success Story of Abada Village under Jal Jeevan Mission
- *Sirisha Nemani Kar*.....11

Now the girls could attend school without hesitation during those days of month!!
- *Lopamudra Panda and Parikh Shukla*13

Water, Dignity and Change for Thoda Tribes
- *Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneeru and Lopamudra Panda*15

Inclusive Impact with Safe Water Access: A Lifeline for a Madhya Pradesh Hamlet
- *Deepa Rose*18

Jal Jeevan Mission for Everyone: A Community-Led Model in Santir Bazar, Tripura
- *Rituparno Chanda and Ankush Bhattacharjee*.....21

Tippanal's Water Revolution: A Story of Change, Dignity, and Justice
- *Chandan Vishwanath*.....23

Now Sunil Kundu does not have to suffer physical and mental agony due to physical disability!
- *Kailash Mahata*.....25

Building of a resilient village through community participation - An inspiring story from Bathan, Assam
- *Rimakshi Choudhury*.....27

आज़ादी के बाद पहली बार नक्सल प्रभावित चुनचुना गाँव में मिल रहा है नल से शुद्ध जल
- *तकनिकी सहायता PHED छत्तीसगढ़ एवं अमित रंजन*29

Building Community leader on WASH - Need of the hour
- *Chanchal Kumar and Amar Prakash*30

Swachh Sujal Gaon - Reel Making Competition
- *Amit Ranjan*32

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation and Arghyam Sign MoU to develop Digital Public Infrastructure for WASH sector.....33

Extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till 202834

Meetings/ Webinars35

Field Visit.....35

Visits of National WaSH Experts..36



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Design: Arif Khan

Edition: 53rd (February 2025)

Publisher: **Arun Kumar**, Under Secretary (DDWS)
National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi - 110 003
E-mail: rnd-ddws@gov.in

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Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

*Efforts are also being made at an accelerated pace to address the drinking water crisis. Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**—the Har Ghar Jal project—water is now being supplied to every village in Bundelkhand through pipelines.*

We are working tirelessly to ensure that water reaches rural areas, easing the struggles of our farmer brothers and sisters and ultimately increasing their income.

- PM's address at the laying of foundation stone of Bageshwar Dham Medical & Science Research Institute on 23.02.2025

”



Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



Shri C R Patil
Minister of Jal Shakti

15 करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों तक Jal Jeevan Mission के तहत शुद्ध पेयजल पहुँचाया जा चुका है। इस पहल ने न केवल घरों तक जल की सुविधा सुनिश्चित की है, बल्कि महिलाओं को दूर से पानी लाने के श्रमसाध्य कार्य से भी मुक्ति दिलाई है।

स्वच्छ जल, स्वस्थ जीवन!

A key highlight of the mission is the empowerment of women, with 25 lakh women trained to test water quality using field testing kits. This initiative has strengthened community-led monitoring, ensuring that water reaching households meets quality standards.

Additionally, the availability of tap water has saved 5.5 crore hours per day for women, allowing them to engage in economic, educational, and social activities.

Hon'ble union Minister, Jal Shakti during 2nd All India Water Ministers' Conference, 18-19 February, 2025, Udaipur, Rajasthan.



Foreword



Five years ago, a rural household with a tap connection was a rarity. Fetching water was a daily struggle, mostly borne by women and children, and villages lived in fear of droughts and floods often faced the looming threat of seasonal distress. Access to clean drinking water was not just about thirst, it was about health, dignity, time, and opportunity.

Today, as we step into 2025, the landscape of rural India has transformed. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has reached every corner, from dry deserts to flood-prone plains, from remote hills to parched lands. JJM has ensured that clean drinking water is no longer a privilege but a basic household feature. This has not only lifted a heavy burden from families but also resulted in a larger socio-economic shift. Migration, once driven by water scarcity, has slowed. Livelihoods have flourished with a renewed commitment to the land. Community bonds have strengthened as villages take ownership of their water resources.

This is where the true impact of JJM lies – the fundamental shift in how rural India experiences water. Children no longer miss school for water collection, healthcare centers can focus on treatment rather than waterborne diseases, and women, relieved of the exhausting daily walk for water, now have time for work, self-improvement, and entrepreneurship.

In many villages, social hierarchies that dictated who could access water first, and who had to wait, are beginning to crumble. A resource once controlled by the privileged few is now managed collectively. Water security has become the bedrock of self-reliant villages. Ownership has replaced dependence.

This edition of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* brings stories of change from every front of rural life – stories that prove JJM is more than an infrastructure project. It is a movement that has redefined rural development, equity, and opportunity. As we look ahead, the promise of JJM extends beyond providing tap water; it is about sustaining the progress, strengthening local governance, and ensuring that no village, no household, and no individual is left behind.

JJM sets the predicament that a tap connection is not just about water. It is a powerful reminder of what is possible when focused intervention meets the commitment to change lives. The mission continues, and so does the impact – reaching homes, strengthening communities, and shaping a future where water security is a reality for all.

Shri Ashok K. K. Meena

Secretary,

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation





Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...



February has been an eventful month, beginning with the announcement of JJM's extension till 2028 in the Union Budget 2025-26. The announcement by the Hon'ble Finance Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring safe and sustainable drinking water access for every rural household with a focus on quality, effective operations and maintenance (O&M), and empowering communities.

From the very beginning, JJM has been a *Jan Andolan*, a people's movement. It transformed the way rural India accessed water, moving from dependence on unreliable sources to community-led, sustainable solutions. Now, in this ensuing phase, "*Jan Bhagidari*" (people's participation) will be at the heart of all our processes. Communities must step forward, not just as beneficiaries but as custodians of their village water supply systems. Operation & Maintenance (O&M), source sustainability, and water conservation must become local priorities, driven by the very people who rely on these systems. Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Gram Panchayats, and local institutions will play a decisive role in managing and maintaining rural water supply systems. Separate MoUs with States and UTs will ensure that citizen-centric water service delivery becomes a long-term reality.

This month also saw the 2nd All India State Water Ministers' Conference in Udaipur, Rajasthan, where key stakeholders came together to discuss the way forward. The discussions focused on sustaining the progress made so far and ensuring that every household tap continues to flow for generations to come. Source protection, sustainability, and community participation emerged as top priorities in the mission to achieve a water-secure India by 2047.

The event witnessed the release of "*JJM: Breaking Social Barriers*" – a book that brings to light impactful stories from villages across the country. These stories show how access to safe drinking water has not only improved health and hygiene but also empowered communities, strengthened social equity, and opened new opportunities for women and children.

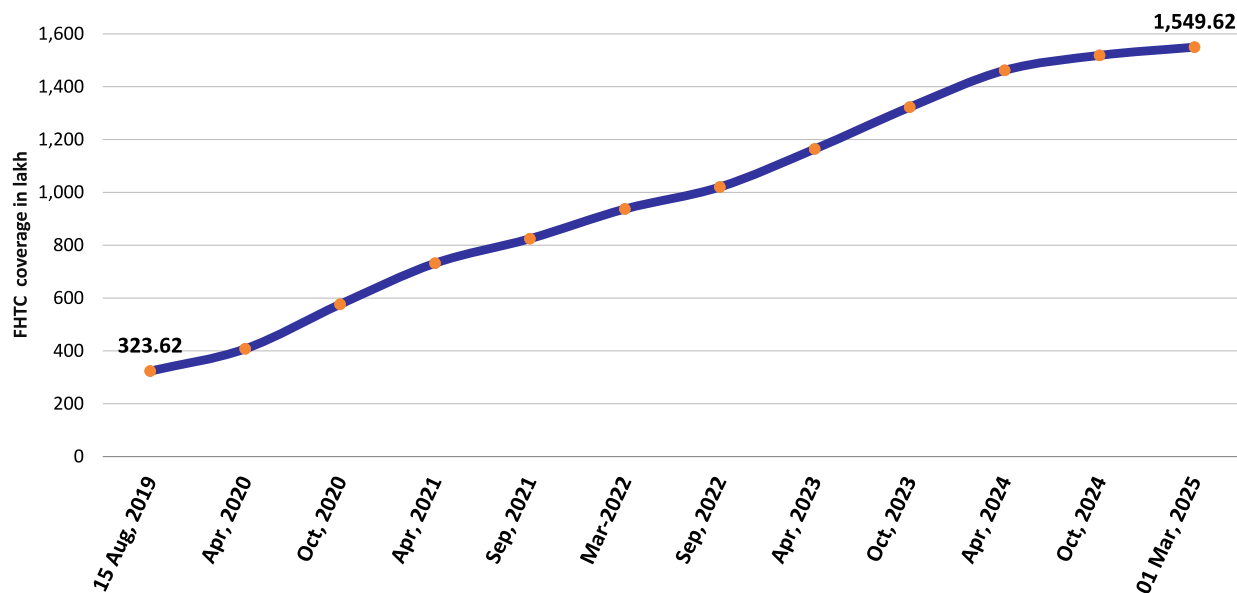
This month, during my visit to Rakampura and Kodyat villages in Udaipur district, I saw firsthand the impact of the Mission. Water is no longer a daily struggle for families in these villages. Women now have more time for work and education, and children are growing up healthier. The community members I interacted with – village leaders, Anganwadi workers, and Sarpanches – shared how they are taking ownership of their water supply, ensuring its upkeep and sustainability. This is how real change happens – when people become active participants in shaping their future.

JJM will now focus on making rural water supply stronger, self-sustaining, and truly community-led. Now is the time to move ahead with greater determination – to ensure that every household that has received tap water continues to get it, year after year.

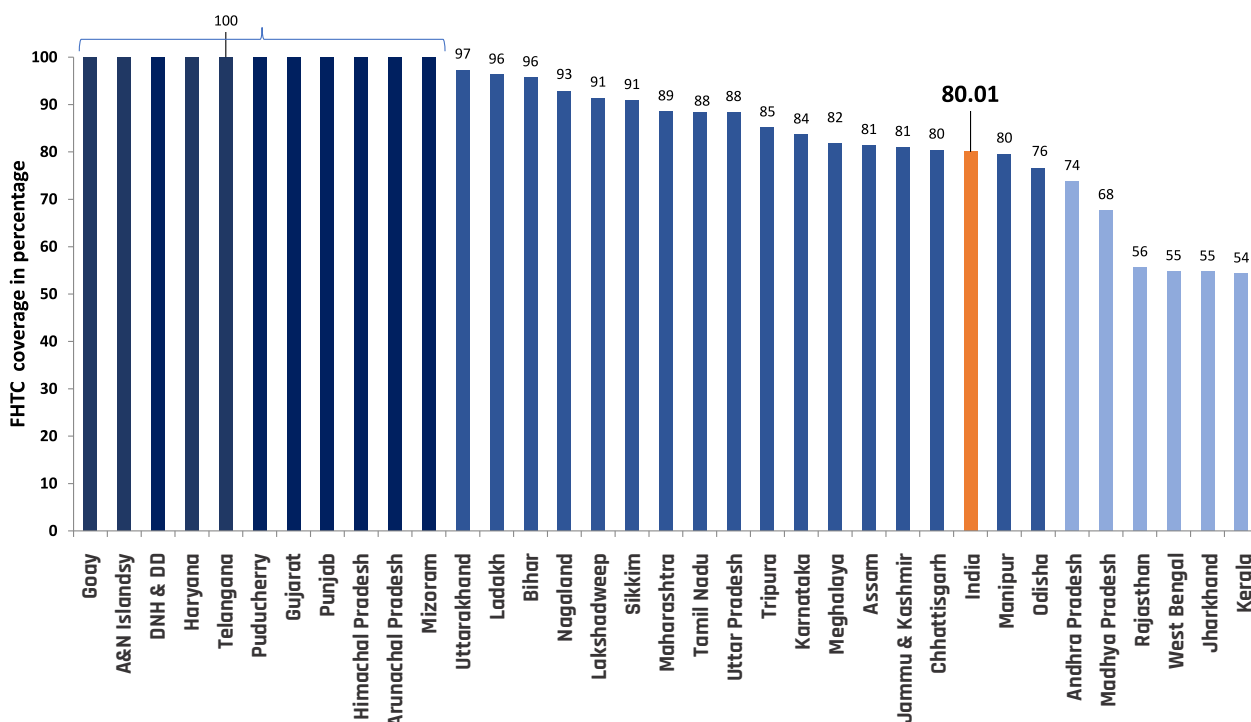
The mission is clear: No one gets left behind!

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

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 28.02.2025)



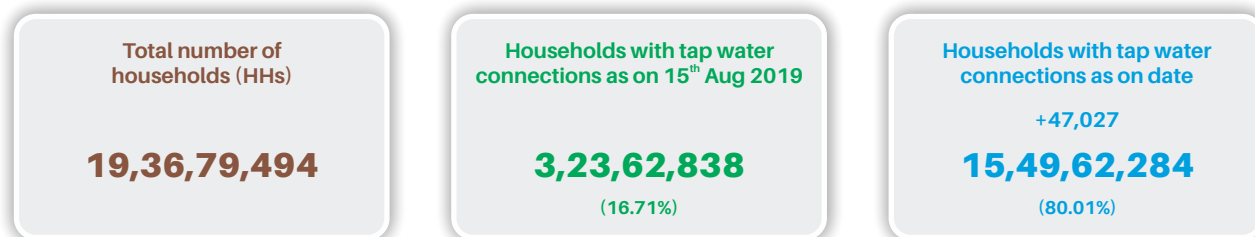
Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 28.02.2025)



As on 28th February, 2025

Source: JJM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes



Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,25,99,446 (75.68%)

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

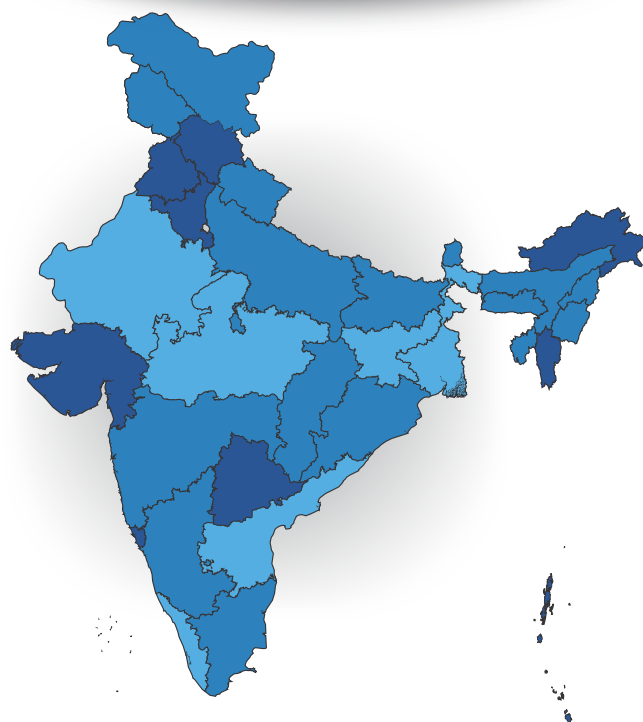
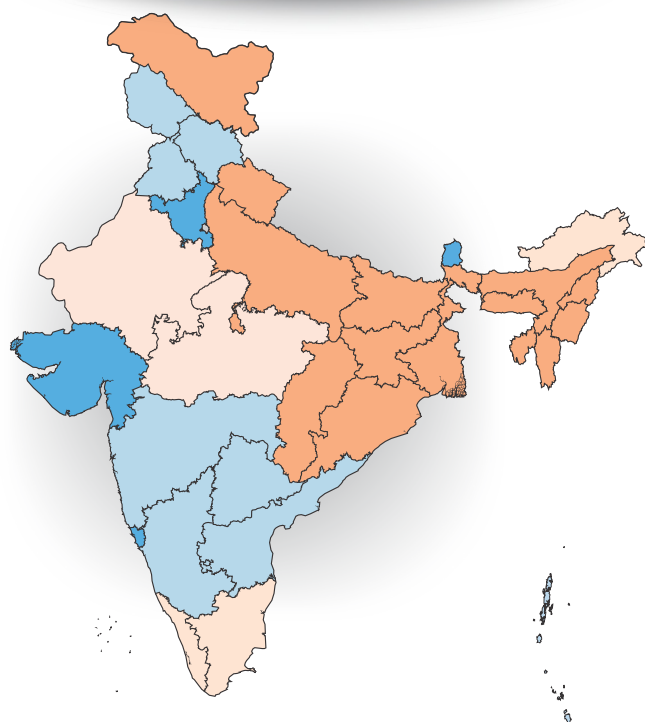
100% FHTC States/ UTs

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



As on 15th August, 2019

As on 28th February, 2025



0 to <10%

10% to <25%

25% to <50%

50% to <75%

75% to <100%

100%

Jal Jeevan Mission participated in 2nd ALL INDIA STATE WATER MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2025

INDIA@2047 A WATER SECURE NATION

DATE: 18th - 19th
FEBRUARY, 2025

VENUE: ARAVALI CONFERENCE HALL,
THE ANANTA RESORT, UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

- Amit Ranjan, NPMU - NJJM

Hon'ble union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurated the 2nd State Water Ministers' Conference on India@2047: Water Secure Nation with a traditional Jal Kalash Ceremony on 18th February, 2025 at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

During the conference on Water Secure Nation, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil highlighted the remarkable progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring safe and sustainable drinking water for every rural household in India.

He laid emphasized that under Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, the mission has made unprecedented progresses, with around 80% of rural households now having access to tap water connections. As a result, more than 15.48 Crore rural households are benefiting from clean and safe drinking water at their doorstep.

While addressing the All India State Ministers and other important dignitaries, Hn'ble Minister accentuated the transformative impact of Jal Jeevan Mission: Har Ghar Jal on public health, women's empowerment, and community participation. He said "According to WHO estimates,



Figure 1: Jal Kalash Ceremony by the dignitaries at conference | Source: National Water Mission

the mission has contributed to the prevention of 4 lakh deaths caused by waterborne diseases like diarrhea. Moreover, the initiative has led to a significant reduction in health-related expenses, improving the overall well-being of rural populations.”

A key highlight of the mission is the empowerment of women, with around 25 lakh women trained to test water quality using field testing kits (FTKs). This initiative has strengthened community-led monitoring, ensuring that water reaching households meets quality standards. Additionally, as per report of WHO, the availability of tap water has saved 5.5 Crore hours per day for women, allowing them to engage in economic, educational, and social activities.

Reaffirming the Government's vision, Shri Patil stated that Water security is a fundamental pillar of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, and the Jal Jeevan Mission is a key driver in achieving this goal. With steady progress and strong community participation, we are committed to making clean drinking water a reality for all.

Session on Jal Jeevan Mission

Water Delivery Services with focus on Drinking Water: AS&MD-JJM made a detailed presentation on Jal Jeevan Mission's progress and achievements and way forward under this theme. The Session was deliberated on the success of Jal Jeevan Mission so far and way forward for sustainable operation and management of the schemes and ensuring water quality. The Session also focused on water security in the cities through Amrut Scheme. During the deliberation, strategies proposed to accelerate access of domestic water services, adopt service level benchmarks, ensure source sustainability of the schemes and quality of water supplies, ensuring viable operation and management, use of technology and innovation in delivery of services.



Figure 2: Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti delivering key-note address at inaugural session of conference | Source: National Water Mission



Figure 3: Secretary, DDWS while delivering outcomes and way-forward during the valedictory session of conference. | Source: National Water Mission



Figure 4: AS&MD-NJJM while delivering presentation under third session of the conference | Source: National Water Mission

Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti during the conference

e-book launch

“आज उदयपुर में आयोजित द्वितीय अखिल भारतीय राज्य जल मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में JSA-CTR 2024, भारत के जल विरासत स्थलों का मोनोग्राफ और Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking the Social Barriers पुस्तकों का ई-लॉन्च करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री Narendra Modi सर के “नारी शक्ति से जल शक्ति” के संकल्प को साकार करते हुए, ये पुस्तकें जल संरक्षण और प्रबंधन में सामुदायिक भागीदारी को और सशक्त बनाएंगी।

- ‘नारी शक्ति से जल शक्ति संकलन’ – जल संरक्षण में महिलाओं की नेतृत्वकारी भूमिका को उजागर करने वाला विशेष संकलन।
- ‘भारत के जल विरासत स्थलों का मोनोग्राफ’ – INTACH के सहयोग से तैयार, यह पुस्तक भारत की ऐतिहासिक जल संरचनाओं की समृद्ध परंपरा को दर्शाती है।
- ‘Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking the Social Barriers’ – जल जीवन मिशन के माध्यम से सामाजिक समरसता और समावेशन की दिशा में हुई उल्लेखनीय प्रगति का दस्तावेज़।



Figure 5: E-launch of Jal Jeevan Mission booklet by the dignitaries

Source: National Water Mission



Figure 6: Secretary, DDWS with the department's team members after successful completion of conference | Source: National Water Mission



Figure 7: Participants of conference with dignitaries | Source: National Water Mission

Exhibition

In addition to the session mentioned above, the Department also participated in an exhibition held at the conference premises. A dedicated digital wall was created to display videos related to JJM and SBMG, showcasing milestones, progress, quotes from the Hon'ble PM, beneficiary testimonials, and program

videos. Over the two days of the exhibition, several state representatives and senior officers visited the display. A dedicated QR code was developed to allow dignitaries easy access to JJM and SBMG documents. The developed QR Codes are mentioned in below creative. Apart from this, 3 Standees were also placed at the exhibition area featuring Mission's impact, progress and other components of the program.

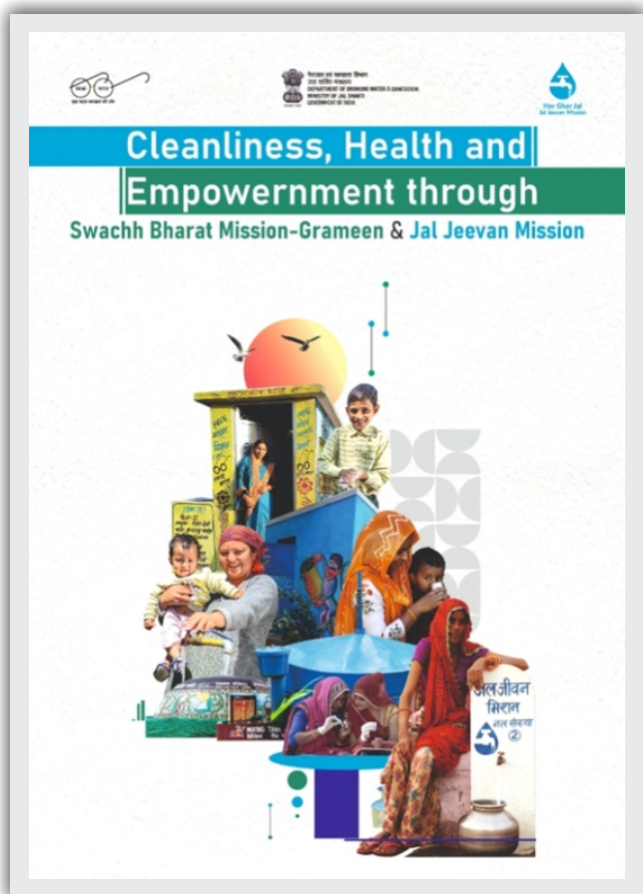


Figure 8: Visitors at Exhibition area of DDWS | Source: National Water Mission

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

- Sirisha Nemani Kar, SPMU, RWSS Odisha

The Challenge: Struggles of the Lanjia Soura Community

Abada, a remote tribal village in the **Gunupur Block of Rayagada District**, is home to the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Lanjia Soura**. For generations, the community has led a life deeply intertwined with nature, yet access to basic amenities like clean water remained a distant dream. Women and children bore the brunt of this hardship, walking several kilometers daily to fetch water from distant ponds and seasonal streams. This relentless chore not only consumed their time but also put their health at risk. During summers, as water sources dried up, the situation worsened, forcing the villagers to depend on unsafe sources, leading to frequent waterborne diseases. The lack of potable water also hampered education, with children often skipping school to assist in collecting water.

The Intervention: Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Brings Hope

A beacon of hope arrived with **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, a flagship initiative aimed at ensuring access to clean drinking water for every rural household of the country. Under the Piped Water Supply (PWS) Project, the following infrastructural advancements were made:

- Two production wells ensuring a sustainable and year-round water supply.

PROFILE

Village	: Abada
Panchayat	: Abada
Block	: Gunupur
District	: Rayagada
Tribe	: Lanjia Soura (PVTG)
Project	: PWS to Abada Scheme
Total Household having FHTCs	: 218
Total Population Benefitted	: 925
Status	: Certified Har Ghar Jal

- A 50,000-liter Elevated Storage Reservoir (ESR) to store and systematically distribute water across the village.

- 218 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC), ensuring every home now has access to safe drinking water at their doorstep.

The Impact: A New Era of Convenience and Well-being

With the successful implementation of the project, life in Abada has been transformed in remarkable ways:

- Improved Health & Hygiene:** The availability of clean water has drastically reduced the prevalence of waterborne diseases, leading to healthier families.
- Empowerment of Women:** Women, who earlier spent hours

fetching water, now have time to engage in livelihood activities, skill development, and community participation.

- Education Flourishes:** The burden on children, especially girls, has lessened. They can now attend school regularly, paving the way for a brighter future.

- Boost to Livelihoods:** Reliable access to water has enabled villagers to take up kitchen gardening, poultry farming, and other water-dependent activities, improving their economic conditions.

- Restoration of Dignity & Convenience:** The ease of having water at home has uplifted the community's living standards, making daily life significantly easier and more dignified.



Voices from the Community

Madhuri Sabar's Experience

“

"Before, we had to wake up before dawn and walk miles just to get a few pots of water. It was exhausting, and there were days when my children had to skip school to help. But now, with water flowing from the tap at our doorstep, our struggles have ended. My children can study without interruptions, and I have time to contribute to family income. It is a blessing beyond words!"

”



Figure 9: Madhuri Sabar with her child is happy having flowing water from tap at home | Source: RWSS Rayagada Division

Padmini Sabar's Experience

“

"Water scarcity was a nightmare for us, especially during the dry months. We would wait in long queues at distant water sources, sometimes returning with just a pot of muddy water. But today, I can cook, clean, and even grow vegetables in my backyard, all thanks to the water connection. It has changed our lives forever!"

”



Figure 10: Wearing a heartfelt smile Padmini Sabar sharing her experience | Source: RWSS Rayagada Division

Conclusion: A Model for Sustainable Development

The success of JJM in Abada stands as a testament to how well-executed policy initiatives can uplift marginalized communities, particularly Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). By establishing sustainable water infrastructure, the Lanjia Soura community has been

given a fresh lease on life—one marked by better health, enhanced education, economic empowerment, and overall well-being.

Abada's journey from water scarcity to water security exemplifies how access to clean water is not just a basic need but a powerful enabler of progress. As other tribal villages look toward similar transformations,

Abada shines as an inspiring model of community development and resilience.

Through Jal Jeevan Mission, the dream of Har Ghar Jal has been realized in Abada, ushering in a new chapter of growth and prosperity for the Lanjia Soura people!

Copy edits by
Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

Now the girls could attend school without hesitation during those days of month!!

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM & Parikh Shukla, WASH Expert - Ladakh, JJM-SBM

High in the remote mountains of Zaskar, where the winters are brutal and the land is as unforgiving as it is breathtaking, stood Govt High School Karsha. For years, the school had battled a silent yet crippling enemy—water scarcity.

It wasn't the cold or the remoteness that made life difficult for students; it was the absence of something as fundamental as clean water. Every day, children came to school knowing that their thirst might go unquenched, their hands would remain unwashed after meals, and their dignity would be compromised every time they used the restroom.

But if there was one person who refused to accept this as fate, it was Madam Stanzin Yangchan.

The Struggles No One Spoke About

Yangchan had always been more than just a teacher—she was a guardian of her students' well-being. She saw beyond textbooks and grades, noticing the small things that affected their ability to learn.

She had watched students struggle after lunch, rubbing their hands against their clothes to clean them. She had seen young boys run to a nearby stream, cupping icy water in

their hands just to take a sip. But the most heartbreaking of all was what the girls had to endure.

In hushed voices, some confided in her that they skipped school for four or five days every month. The reason? Menstruation.

Without water to clean themselves, they had no choice but to stay home. For a teacher like Yangchan, who had dedicated her life to ensuring that every student—boy or girl—had an equal opportunity to learn, this was unacceptable.

She had many questions in her mind for the change – Whom and How to chase, whether the dream will fulfill, how many generations will face this issue!! But being a resilient person, she believes that miracles happens.

The Battle for Water

Convincing people that water scarcity was a crisis wasn't easy. The community had lived with it for so long that it had become normal. But Yangchan refused to accept 'normal' when it came to her students' health and dignity.

She knocked on doors, spoke at school meetings, and relentlessly pushed for attention to the issue. She painted vivid pictures of the daily struggles her students faced—the midday meal eaten with dirty hands, the illnesses that followed, the girls forced into absenteeism. Her persistence was unshakable, and



Figure 11: Stanzin Yangchan using a Solar water heater | Source: PHED Ladakh





Figure 12: Girl students are happy to have tap water in school | Source: PHED Ladakh

finally, hope arrived in the form of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

When the government approved the installation of tap water at the school, it felt like a distant dream. But Yangchan believed in miracles—the kind that came from hard work. She oversaw the process, ensuring that no student would ever have to suffer from a lack of water again.

The First Drop of Change

Then, one fateful day, it happened. The taps were installed. The water flowed.

For the first time, students didn't have to carry bottles from home or run to distant streams. They could drink when they were thirsty, wash their hands after meals, and most importantly, the girls could attend school without hesitation.

Ripples of Transformation

Madam Dorjay, another teacher, couldn't hide her pride as she watched the students embrace this new reality. *"It's unbelievable, the happiness in their faces... it's something we never thought we'd see."*

Illnesses that once spread due to poor hygiene began to decline. Absenteeism among girls dropped. The school felt more alive, more hopeful.

For the first time, the children of Karsha were experiencing the simple joy of water.

For Stanzin Yangchan, this was never about personal recognition. It was about her students—about making sure no child had to choose between education and basic needs.

She still walks the halls of the school, watching the once hesitant girls participate in lessons and other co-curricular activities without fear. She smiles as students no longer rush out in search of a drink, knowing water is right there for them.

She may not wear a cape, but she is a hero—the Water Warrior of Zanskar.

And because of her relentless fight, the students of Govt High School Karsha now have what every child deserves: clean water, dignity, and a chance to dream without limitations. Today over 98% schools in Ladakh have tap water supply that is not only quenching the thirst but also supporting hygiene and sanitation as a whole gamete of WASH.

Water, Dignity and Change for Thoda Tribes

- Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneeru, IAS, District Collector of Nilgiris, 2015 batch IAS and Lopamudra Panda, NPMU, NJJM-DDWS

In the heart of the Nilgiris District, hidden away in misty hills and dense forests, lie two tiny hamlets—Anaikalandhu and Kundhakodumandhu. Home to the **Thoda tribal** community, these villages had stood the test of time, their people fiercely independent

and deeply connected to nature. But for as long as they could remember, water had been their greatest struggle.

For generations, the people of Anaikalandhu and Kundhakodumandhu had lived by one unbreakable routine—the walk for water which is a daily battle of their survival. Their only source was a distant stream. In summers the situation worsens when this stream dries, and the incumbents longs for alternate water sources which often far away, winding through thick forest trails where wild animals lurked.

But it wasn't just about exhaustion—it was about fear. The forests were home to wild animals. Every trip to fetch water felt like a gamble with fate. Mothers clutched their children's hands tightly, hoping they would return home safely.

Census Parameter	Census Data
Total Population	35
Total No of Houses	14
Total male Population %	46.00%
Female Population %	54.00 %
Total Literacy rate %	22.00 %
Female Literacy rate	14.00 %
Working Population %	35.00 %
Child(0 -6) Population by 2011	8.00%
Girl Child(0 -6) Population % by 2011	4.00%

Then came winter—a season of even greater hardship. From November to February, temperatures plunged below zero degrees Celsius, turning their only water source into a block of ice.

“For many years, our villages Anaikalandhu & Kundhakodumandhu struggled with severe water scarcity. Our main water source was a distant stream, and during the summer months, it would often dry up, forcing us to search for alternative water sources. Every day, we had to walk a kilometer to fetch water from this stream. We are suffered a lot to fetch the water as the path was rugged and uneven, and carrying heavy pot so water back home was exhausting. We also faced the challenge of wild animals. The physical exhaustion was immense, and it left us little energy for other daily tasks.” Says a lady remembering the exhaustive trips.



Figure 13: Women of Thoda Tribe happily filling vessels from tap | Source: TWAD Board and Dist. Admin.

“The lack of clean water had serious health implications on our community. We frequently suffered from water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid. During the winter, these diseases would become even more common due to the scarcity of clean water. The situation was dire and it was clear that without a reliable source of clean water, our health and well-being were constantly at risk.”

Says Village Panchayat President Tmt. Sasikala

Thoda community also bound to bear the burden the cost of dirty water! Even when they managed to get water, it wasn't always safe. During the monsoon, the stream turned muddy and contaminated, leading to frequent outbreaks of diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid.

They spent their hard-earned savings on medicines instead of food, clothes, or education. School attendance suffered, and dreams of a better future remained just that—dreams.

When Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) announced that clean water would reach every home, hope flickered in the villagers' hearts. But it was mixed with skepticism. Would the government really bring water to their doorstep? Would they still have to walk miles for something so basic?

The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), led by Sasikala, the Panchayat President, worked tirelessly to ensure every household received a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC). Then one morning, the impossible happened,

“We never thought we would see this day, for the first time in our lives, we are free from the fear of water scarcity.” Says an elderly with emotions sparkling in her eyes.

Ripples of Transformation

- ✓ With clean water came dignity, health, and freedom.
- ✓ Girls no longer missed school because they had water for hygiene.
- ✓ Medical expenses dropped as waterborne diseases became rare.
- ✓ Women reclaimed their time, spending it on farming, handicrafts, and raising livestock.
- ✓ Children could play, study, and dream freely—without worrying about fetching water.

water flowed. It wasn't just a trickle. It was clean, fresh, and safe water, right at their doorstep.

It is not just a tap, it's a promise that is flowing in the form of water, it's a new life for Thoda tribes.

But the transformation didn't stop with taps. The community, especially its women, took ownership of water quality monitoring. They became the guardians of water by leading the way.

Under the guidance and facilitations of District Project Management Unit (DPMU) and Officials VWSC was formed and 5 women from Self-help groups was trained to test and monitor water quality using FTKs. Chlorination is carried out every 15 days to ensure the community gets safe quality water. These trained women are excelling in water quality monitoring and surveillance. Similarly skilled peoples are maintaining the O&M of PWS scheme for smooth water distribution to every house.



Figure 14: Gram Sabha meeting for Har Ghar Jal Certification | Source: TWAD Board and Dist. Admin.



Figure 15: Training By TWAD Board | Source: TWAD Board and Dist. Admin.

As these villages are tribal habitations, the village Panchayat provides free water supply to every household, waiving user fees. Two Gravity-Flow Reservoirs (GLRs) have been set up at Anaikalmadhu and Kundhakodumandhu, enabling 100% piped connections to all households.

The 'Har Ghar Jal' program brought relief to the residence of Nanjanadu, providing clean drinking water through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). A Har Gram Sabha was organized for Har Ghar Jal Certification under VWSC Chairman Sasikala's leadership. All 14 households in Anaikalmadhu and Kundhakodumandhu villages now have FHTCs.

To strengthen water quality monitoring, villagers participated in a TWAD Board training program. This enhanced field functionaries' capacity to address water quality issues and prevent waterborne diseases.

Regular Gram Sabhas and public awareness campaigns promote water harvesting, clean drinking water, and efficient use. Water quality testing results trigger:

- Notification of affected sources if contamination found

- Marking contaminated sources with red colour
- Conducting discussions in community-level meetings regarding diseases caused by bacteria and methods of prevention
- Awareness on importance of clean water usage
- Household-level water treatment demonstrations during habitation level meetings
- Presentation of bacteriological test reports in Gram Panchayat,

Gram Sabha, and village organisation meetings

- Chlorination of affected sources in coordination with VWSC and, GP
- Conducting sanitary surveys and taking remedial actions
- Regular monitoring and cleaning of water source areas

The Village Panchayat also conducts health camps and monitoring using a mobile medical app. This initiative has ushered in a social revolution, providing 55 lpcd to every household, regardless of caste, color, creed, or religion. This inclusive approach has reduced drudgery for women, who no longer need to travel long distances for water.

Tmt. Sasikala expresses her heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu for providing safe drinking water and improving the villagers' quality of life.

When water flows, life flourishes!

** Inputs TWAD Board

“

Tmt. Sasikala, Village Panchayat President, attests ***“It has transformed Anaikalmadhu and Kundhakodumandhu villages. JJM has not only ensured access to clean and safe drinking water but also brought about significant behavioral changes. The community now takes ownership and responsibility for village infrastructure, tap Connections, and maintaining cleanliness. This, in turn, has improved the social and economic status of the society.***

With access to clean water, medical expenditures have decreased significantly. Furthermore, families can now allocate more resources to education and other essential needs.”

”



Inclusive Impact with Safe Water Access: A Lifeline for a Madhya Pradesh Hamlet

- Deepa Rose, State lead India Safe Water, Madhya Pradesh, Evidence Action



Figure 16: An elderly enjoying access to safe water from her tap at home, her smiles speaks her relief | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh

Bhada Bawadi, a rural village nestled in Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh has long struggled with access to clean and safe water to quench the thirst. It is home to 762 residents across 168 households. The village comprises a significant percentage of marginalised community.

For years, the residents of Bhada Bawadi, relied on borewells located in remote parts of the village and a limited number of hand pumps. These sources often proved unreliable, forcing villagers especially women and girls to travel long distances to fetch water, which was not always safe for consumption. The lack of a structured and reliable water supply system led to frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, disproportionately affecting children and vulnerable communities.

The Beginning of Change: Technology Innovation

For Bhada Bawadi, the life took a turn with Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Under the mission, the village was provided with a Single Village Scheme (SVS) featuring a 20 KL sump well, ensuring household-level pipe connections across all homes. This PWS scheme significantly improved water accessibility.

As the ethos of JJM also speaks about water supply of prescribed quality (BIS:10500), to ensure this Evidence Action, the technical partner of Jal Jeevan Mission, has installed a tablet-



Figure 17: In-Line Chlorination device, set up by technical partner Evidence Action | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh



Figure 18: Focused Group Discussion, discussing about the importance of safe drinking water | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh

based In-Line Chlorination device. this water disinfection device is integrated into the water supply pipelines. The installation aims to ensure quality water.

Empowering Communities Through Grassroot Leadership

Community participation (Jan Bhagidari) is a key aspect of this initiative. Initially, the community was hesitant about the technology. But with the support of the rural water and sanitation department, Jal Samiti, SHG, ASHA, and ANM, Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Sarpanch, has encouraged and organized various focused group meetings at panchayat level. Community participated in the Gram Sabha and Gram Charcha to spread awareness about the role and benefits of the device.

With the support of the Self-Help Group (SHG) and Jal Samiti, **Shri Ram Nivas**, a resident of the village turned out to be a prominent advocate for using of ILC device. He personally reached out to every household, spreading awareness about the benefits of this device and encouraging its adoption within the commu-

nity & how it can prevent diseases. However, with the help of effective community awareness and engagement activities, he has seen tremendous health improvement and says *"Since we started getting chlorinated water, we've noticed a significant difference. The water feels lighter to drink, and we've seen*

a reduction in skin diseases that used to cause crusty patches on our hands and feet due to the bore water. Moreover, having a tap connection at home means we no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water, and we're assured of getting clean, filtered water right at our doorstep."

The impact of this intervention in Bhada Bawadi has been profound. Villagers have reported a noticeable decline in waterborne diseases, especially among children. Increased awareness has fostered community-led initiatives on hygiene and sanitation, further strengthening public health outcomes. This progress showcases the remarkable impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission in driving community-led change and active participation. Additionally, states promote chlorination awareness through banners, wall paintings, and school/college debates, educating communities on the importance of safe water practices.



Figure 19: A young girl's happiness bounds no limit as tap water has quenched her thirst | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh



Ensuring Water Quality and Inspiring others

Ram Nivas's story is a testament to the transformative power of the Jal Jeevan Mission and its focus on empowering community-driven change. His journey showcases how government bodies like the Jal Jeevan Mission are not just improving infrastructure but also empowering communities and inspiring individuals to create sustainable change. Ram

Nivas's efforts showcase how Jal Jeevan Mission has ensured access to safe drinking water through ILC devices.

The success of Bhada Bawadi showcases how inclusive water governance can uplift communities, ensuring their fundamental right to safe drinking water. This story stands as a testament to the power of collaborative efforts between government programs, local gover-

nance, and community engagement in achieving sustainable development.

The marginalised communities, who were most vulnerable due to inadequate water infrastructure, are now at the forefront of **embracing and advocating for clean water**. Their testimonials reflect the transformation:

*Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda,
NPMU, NIJM-DDWS*

Seema, a 30-year-old tribal woman, shares her experience:

The chlorinated water is very good. Earlier, my body used to itch constantly, but now I don't have that problem anymore. Last rainy season, my children fell ill frequently, but this year they haven't. That's the biggest benefit for me.



Figure 20: Seema D/o Guddu Adivasi from Bhada Bawadi village, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh

Ramnivas, a tribal inhabitant, says:

"Water scarcity was a nightmare for us, especially during the dry months. We would wait in long queues at distant water sources, sometimes returning with just a pot of muddy water. But today, I can cook, clean, and even grow vegetables in my backyard, all thanks to the water connection. It has changed our lives forever!"



Figure 21: Ram Nivas from Bhada Bawadi village, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh | Source: EA in Madhya Pradesh

Jal Jeevan Mission for Everyone: A Community-Led Model in Santir Bazar, Tripura

- Rituparno Chanda and Ankush Bhattacharjee, Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML)



Figure 22: WUC members of Atindra Das | Source: Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML)

Sustainable Water Supply Through Community-Driven Revenue Management

To maintain the scheme effectively, the WUC introduced a monthly water tariff of ₹50 per household. This self-sustaining model covers essential costs:

- ✓ ₹20 per household supports the pump operator, ensuring continuous service.
- ✓ ₹30 per household is allocated for operation & maintenance (O&M), such as electrical repairs, MCB switch replacements, and infrastructure upkeep.

By effectively managing resources, the committee has ensured a functional, uninterrupted water supply system, reinforcing JJM's goal of self-sufficient rural water management.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide safe and sustainable drinking water to every rural household. A shining example of this vision in action is the Atindra Das Water Users Committee (WUC) in Santir Bazar, Salema block, Dhalai district, Tripura, where the community has taken ownership of their piped water supply system, ensuring universal access, financial sustainability, and long-term functionality.

Empowering Communities for Inclusive Water Management

Formed on 21st July 2023, the Atindra Das WUC embodies participatory governance, with women comprising the majority (8 out of 11 members). Led by President Srikanta Deb, Vice President Lipi Paul, Secretary Satyajit

Shome, and Treasurer Shekhar Shome, the committee ensures transparent and accountable management of water supply, making safe drinking water a reality for all.



Figure 23: WUC members of Atindra Das | Source: Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML)

Capacity Building and Awareness Under Jal Jeevan Mission

With support from the Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML), the WUC has undergone rigorous training on:

- ✓ Operation & Maintenance (O&M) for efficient system upkeep.
- ✓ Water Quality Testing to ensure safety.
- ✓ Financial Management for transparent revenue collection.

Regular community meetings and awareness sessions educate residents on water conservation, instilling collective responsibility for managing water resources.

A Replicable Model for Jal Jeevan Mission's Success

The Atindra Das WUC's approach demonstrates how local communities can drive sustainable water management under JJM:



Figure 24: WUC President with the Pump Operator | Source: Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML)

- ✓ **Regular Tariff Collection:** Steady funds for operation & maintenance.
- ✓ **Sustainable Maintenance:** Proactive repairs reduce service disruptions.
- ✓ **Community Ownership:** Active participation fosters long-term sustainability.
- ✓ **Increased Awareness:** Water conservation efforts ensure future security.

By **prioritizing inclusivity, transparency, and self-reliance**, the Atindra Das WUC sets a powerful example of JJM's mission in action, demonstrating that community-led water management can ensure equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water for all. Their success highlights the transformative impact of local governance, proving that when communities take ownership, Jal Jeevan Mission truly becomes a mission for everyone—leaving no one behind.

Copy Edit by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM, DDWS

“

The SBDTW at N/H of Athindra Das is created under Jal Jeevan Mission. With extensive Information, Education and communication, it is observed that this is the first scheme where community has actively participated in operation and maintenance of the scheme. I am very hopeful that this success story will create awareness on various aspects and significance of safe drinking water and also encourage the stakeholders of other water supply scheme too in ensuring sustainability of water supply system.

”



Figure 25: Brajin Debbarma, J.E. DWS Salema
Source: Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML)

Tippanal's Water Revolution: A Story of Change, Dignity, and Justice

- Chandan Vishwanath, Documentation Expert, JJM, RDWSD, Karnataka

The sound of water filling an earthen pot is one of life's simplest joys. It is a sound that brings relief, that signals the end of thirst. But for the people of Tippanal, a small village in Karnataka's Koppal district, this sound was once a distant dream.

Every morning, the village woke up to the same struggle. Before the first light of day, women and young girls would set out with empty vessels, walking across uneven paths to the nearest borewell. Sometimes, they returned with water. Often, they returned with nothing.

Water was scarce, but the hardships it caused were abundant. The borewell, their only source, was unreliable. The water they collected

was muddy, its safety questionable. It carried the weight of sickness, of lost time, of lives put on hold.

For the 1,322 residents of Tippanal, eight SC families, 860 ST families, and 454 from the general category – water wasn't just a need; it was a daily battle. The village depended on agriculture, growing sorghum, maize, and groundnuts, but even their fields often thirsted for water. And for those who had to fetch it, each drop came at the cost of time, energy, and dignity.

The lines at the borewell stretched long. The wait was exhausting. The children missed school, the elderly suffered, and the women, who bore the brunt of the crisis, lived in a cycle of endless labour.

The Turning Point: Jal Jeevan Mission Arrives

Change arrived not in the form of grand speeches or distant promises but in the sound of pipes being laid beneath the earth, in the sight of taps being fixed outside every home

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission's Multi-Village Scheme (MVS), Tippanal was chosen to receive 288 household tap connections. For the first time, water would not have to be fetched. It would arrive – at their doorstep, clean, safe, and always available.

The transformation was almost surreal.

Water, which once dictated their lives, was now just a tap away.



Figure 26: Happiness comes in the form of a tap! A traditional ceremony marks the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the village | Source: RDWSD, Karnataka



Tippanal was officially declared a 'Har Ghar Jal' village, meaning every home had a functional tap connection. But the real magic wasn't in the declaration, it was in the everyday moments.

The mornings no longer began with rushed footsteps to the borewell. The afternoons were no longer spent worrying about the next day's water supply. And the nights? They were filled with something new – rest, dreams, and a quiet certainty that tomorrow would be easier.

The Impact

Water had always been a woman's burden. Fetching it. Storing it. Rationing it. Worrying about it. But with taps inside homes, a new kind of freedom began to take shape.

For the first time, women were not defined by their struggle for water.

With the time they once spent at borewells, they now did other things. Some started small businesses. Some joined self-help groups.

Young girls, who had once skipped school to help their mothers, now attended classes every day.

For Sumitra, a woman from the ST community, the tap outside her home was not just about convenience. It was about freedom.

“

Before, getting water was a battle. We woke up before sunrise, stood in long lines, and returned home exhausted. The water was dirty, but we had no choice. Our children fell sick, but there was nothing we could do. Now, life is different. Water comes to us. My daughters go to school instead of walking miles with empty buckets. My time is mine. I can work, I can rest, I can live.

”

Earlier, marginalized communities had to wait at common water sources, sometimes facing discrimination, sometimes being asked to wait till the others had filled their pots. But not anymore.

With water in every home, there were no more divisions, no more silent humiliations. Every family, whether SC, ST, or general, has equal access.

The Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) played a crucial role, ensuring that the system remained functional. Every household contributed a small water tariff, not as a burden, but as a responsibility. This was their water. Their project. Their success.

Tippanal's journey is more than just a village's success story, it is a model for every rural community still struggling with water access.

It proves that when water is made equal, life is made equal. That when water flows freely, so do opportunities, dignity, and hope.

The Jal Jeevan Mission did not just bring water to Tippanal – it brought justice. And that is the real revolution.

Copy Edit by Shailika Sinha, NJJM



Figure 27: Celebrating the Flow of Life! Tippanal village marks a new beginning with the arrival of clean drinking water under Jal Jeevan Mission, symbolizing equality, dignity, and prosperity for all | Source: RDWSD, Karnataka

Now Sunil Kundu does not have to suffer physical and mental agony due to physical disability!

- Kailash Mahata, IEC & CB Specialist, DPMU, Bankura Division, West Bengal

For years, Sunil Kundu's life was a relentless battle. A 45-year-old man from Chhatna Block in Bankura, West Bengal, Sunil faced not only extreme poverty but also the harsh reality of physical disability. Daily survival was tough, but one struggle overshadowed all—access to safe drinking water.

Everyday despite his physical limitations, Sunil had to embark on a strenuous journey, walking for hours to fetch water from tube wells. The water from these sources was often unhygienic, leading to frequent bouts of illness. With no other option, he endured the physical pain and mental agony of collecting water —because water is life.

Sunil's story is not unique. Across Bankura district, many individuals with disabilities have long suffered due to the lack of accessible, safe drinking water. But change was on the horizon.

Hope arrived when piped potable water services reached Sunil's village under the government's mission to provide every rural household with tap water by 2024. At first, it felt too good to be true. But soon, the village witnessed a transformation—pipes were laid, taps were installed, and for the first time, clean water flowed directly into homes.

For Sunil, it was nothing short of a miracle. The burden he had carried for years was lifted in an instant. His emotions poured out as he said:

“

আমি ভাষায় প্রকাশ করতে পারবো না আমার আনন্দ এতদিন যে শারীরিক এবং মানসিক কষ্ট সহ্য করেছি এখন তার অবসান হলো জল আনতে আর কষ্ট করতে হবে না সরকারের এই উদ্যোগের জন্য আমি চিরকৃতজ্ঞ

(I cannot express my happiness in words. The physical and mental agony I endured for years has finally ended. I no longer have to struggle for water. I am forever grateful to the government for this initiative.)

”



Figure 28: Sunil Kundu with his household tap connection | Source: DPMU, Bankura Division, West Bengal

With clean water now available at home, Sunil and his wife no longer fear waterborne diseases. Cooking, cleaning, and daily chores are no longer a struggle. But Sunil's story is just one of many. Women, who once

spent hours fetching water, now have time to focus on their families, livelihoods, and education.

Chhatna Block has achieved 100% household water coverage, a



testament to the power of effective governance and community-driven development. But the journey does not end here. Sustaining this success means ensuring water conservation, responsible usage, and continued hygiene awareness.

Sunil Kundu's transformation is a beacon of hope, proving that something as simple as a water connection can restore dignity,

health, and the promise of a better future.

Sunil's struggle is not unique. There are many people in Bankura district who have some form of disability, making access to necessities, such as safe drinking water, an ongoing battle. For people like Sunil, something as simple as clean water was once a distant dream.

However, Sunil's life took a turn for the better when the piped potable water services reached his village. The mission, aimed at providing piped water to every rural household by 2024, was a beacon of hope for thousands like him.

Copy Edit by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM, DDWS



Figure 29: Sunil Kundu showing his disability certificate | Source: DPMU, Bankura Division, West Bengal

Building of a resilient village through community participation - An inspiring story from Bathan, Assam

- Rimakshi Choudhury, State Consultant, Assam, UNOPS

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been working in 57 villages of Assam for strengthening and supporting the Jal Jeevan Mission through community mobilization by its participatory approaches' methodology since December 2022.

The Participatory Approaches includes approaches like **CLNOB** (Community Leave No One Behind), where a village mapping is done with participation from all the people in the community ensuring that no one is left in villages to be included for the Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage; **CLASS** (Community Led Action for Sanitary Surveillance) where a sanitary survey was done in each household along with training of the 5 member FTK women group on water quality testing, disease mapping and awareness on prevention of water-borne diseases; **Pani Panchayat** where a water budgeting exercise is done with the women in the village indicating the amount of time they spend doing chores involving water and deriving how water is closely related to women.

All these activities lead to the drafting of the Village Action Plan (VAP) meant for the development of the village where UNOPS had got it approved from the president of the Village Panchayat and submitted to the Panchayat for the action plans to be included in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). This methodology has ensured maximum



Figure 30: UNOPS team with women in Bathan during a capacity building programme | Source: UNOPS India

community participation and enabled each household of the village to participate in the planning process. Apart from the VAP, UNOPS had focused on the Capacity Building of the Water User Community (WUC), who are primarily responsible for the overall functioning of the Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) with a few module trainings essential for smooth functioning of the PWSS and the Committee like Roles and Responsibilities of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Book Keeping and Financial Management, Operation and Maintenance of the PWSS, Source and System Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). Among the other stakeholders UNOPS has built the capacity of the women group particularly the FTK women groups, Cluster Level Federation (CLF) members of the Assam State Rural

Livelihood Mission, ASHA workers, Community Wash Coordinator (CWC) and the Jal Mitras (pump operators).

Bathan is one of the intervention villages of UNOPS in the Sualkuchi Block of Kamrup District in Assam that have shown exemplary community participation in the smooth functioning of the PWSS and its overall operation and maintenance. This article tries to throw some light on some of the interesting and encouraging initiatives taken by everyone in the community for making the Mission's effort a success.

- 1. A highly active Water User Committee:** The WUC in Bathan led by its president Mr. Nityananda Baishya, is very active in Bathan. They ensure regular meeting of the committee and ensure a strong



grievance redressal mechanism, timely tariff collection, and other development activities of the village. The WUC is capacitated on its various roles and responsibilities and keeping of records which they are maintaining effectively.

2. 100% FHTC Coverage: In Bathan a total of 667 households are using water from the PWSS making it into a 100% FHTC covered village of Assam. All villagers are also aware on the usage of water and take effective measures during any leakage and wastage.

3. Engagement of two Jal Mitras: In Bathan, considering a high number of households depending on a single village scheme, the WUC has engaged two Jal Mitras for the smooth operation and maintenance of the schemes. One of the Jal Mitras receives his remuneration from the funds allocated to PNRD and the other Jal Mitra is receiving his remuneration from the WUC from the tariff collection. This mechanism has ensured greater coverage of repairing work if needed, timely tariff collection, and timely and uninterrupted water supply.

4. Regular Monthly Tariff Collection:

While tariff collection is a challenge the entire state is facing in almost every district; in Bathan every household is paying a monthly tariff of Rs. 100 regularly. Every family is proactive in paying the monthly water bill. The Jal Mitra engaged by the WUC goes for monthly fees collection and it has resulted in very less defaulters. Moreover, the villagers are very much aware on the importance of paying for the water. This has also ensured timely payment to the Jal Mitra.

5. Role of Women: Women in Bathan are quite active in water related matters. They ensure regular water testing using FTKs to check the quality of the water. They also take active participation in spreading awareness on building soak pits, managing their solid and liquid waste, water conservation and prevention of waterborne diseases by participating in the training programs and meetings organised by UNOPS and others.

6. Role of Senior Citizens: The senior citizens of Bathan are also very proactive when it comes to maintenance of their FHTC and timely payment of the monthly

tariff. Two senior citizens received the District Jal Sewa Award in 2024 for best maintenance of the FHTC. It is noteworthy that despite all the financial hardship they never fail to deposit the monthly tariff and have maintained their FHTC by building soak pit near it and ensure proper usage.

7. Visits by various team: During the last quarter of 2024, Bathan Bathan received visits from several distinguished teams such as the NJJM team along with JJM Assam team led by the Secretary, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Mission Director, JJM Assam and other officials of the National and State team and had a round of interaction with the community. A delegation from the Danish Embassy also visited the village.

8. These visits have encouraged the community to a great extent and they are motivated by the inclusive commitment of all for the success of the village and all-round development of the community.

Today, Bathan stands as an inspiration for others, demonstrating the power of collective action. The village has proved that when a community takes charge, transformation follows.

Copy edit by Shailika Sinha-NJJM



Figure 31: Visit by Secretary DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI | Source: UNOPS India

आज़ादी के बाद पहली बार नक्सल प्रभावित चुनचुना गाँव में मिल रहा है नल से शुद्ध जल

- तकनीकी सहायता PHED छत्तीसगढ़ एवं अमित रंजन, राष्ट्रीय जल जीवन मिशन

अभी पिछले महीने ही, देश ने 76वाँ गणतंत्र दिवस को भव्य तरीके से मनाया जिसमें देश भर से हज़ारों विशिष्ट अतिथियों को बुलाया गया था। इन अतिथियों में जल जीवन मिशन के भी जल-योद्धाओं ने बढ़ चढ़ कर भाग लिया था। इन जल योद्धाओं की चर्चा इसलिए हो रही है कि क्योंकि इनमें से कई ऐसे पिछड़े गाँव कि महिलाएँ थीं जिन्होंने मिशन को एक नए आयाम तक पहुँचा दिया है।

यह बहुत ही हर्ष ही बात है की, आज़ादी के इतने साल बाद, अब छत्तीसगढ़ के चुनचुना गाँव में हमारे माताओं-बहनों के घरों में नल से शुद्ध जल आने लगा है। ग्राम चुनचुना, बलरामपुर जिले के जनपद पंचायत-कुसमी अंतर्गत छत्तीसगढ़ एवं झारखण्ड राज्य के सीमा पर जंगलो के बीच पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में बसा एक गाँव है, जो लंबे समय तक घोर नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्र रहा है।

कुल 1185 आबादी वाला ये गाँव, कभी पानी की संकट से जूझ रहा था और केवल पास के कुओं एवं हैंडपंप पर ही आश्रित रहता था। गाँव में लगभग 70% घरों में शुद्ध-जल प्राप्त होने से ग्रामीणों के जीवन में अनेक सकारात्मक परिवर्तन हुए हैं। अपने घर में शुद्ध जल प्राप्त होने से लोग समय से अपने दैनिक कार्य कर रहे हैं, जिससे लोगों के समय की बचत हो रही है। लोगों का दूषित पानी के कारण होने वाले संक्रामक बीमारियों से बचाव हो रहा है।

इस गाँव की सरपंच श्रीमति हल्की नगेशिया की अध्यक्षता वाली पानी समिति को धन्यवाद की पात्र है क्योंकि इन्होंने जल की समस्या से निपटने का जिम्मा खुद अपने हाथ में ले लिया। इन्होंने गाँव वालों एवं राज्य सरकार की सहायता से जल संरक्षण एवं वर्षा जल भण्डारण को मुख्य रूप से बढ़ावा दिया जिससे समुचित स्तर पर जल प्रबंधन



Figure 32: A village beneficiary with her tap connection fetching water at her ease | Source: PHED, Chhattisgarh

भी हो सके और साथ ही साथ शुद्ध-पेयजल भी उपलब्ध हो सके।

ग्राम चुनचुना में जल जीवन मिशन योजना के अंतर्गत पाइप लाइन के विस्तार, नल कनेक्शन देने एवं सोलर पंप आधारित उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण का कार्य किया जाना अत्यंत चुनौतीपूर्ण था, किन्तु लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग (PHED) के सक्रियता से कार्य को पूर्ण कराया जाना संभव हो सका है। इस ग्राम में 179.84 लाख की लागत से तैयार एकल ग्राम

नल-जल योजना से ग्राम के अधिकांश बसाहटों में पाइप लाइन विस्तार कर नल कनेक्शन के माध्यम से शुद्ध पेयजल प्रदाय किया जा रहा है।

सिर्फ यही नहीं, जैसे हम अपने घर पर स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जरूरी परीक्षण कर लेते हैं ठीक वैसे ही जल जीवन मिशन योजना अंतर्गत पेयजल की गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने के लिये प्रशिक्षित जल बहिनी, एक समूह बना कर समय-समय पर सभी खोतो का जल गुणवत्ता परीक्षण एफ.टी.के. यानी फील्ड टेस्टिंग किट के माध्यम से कर रही हैं।

“

नल से जल मिलने की खुशी क्या होती है, उसका अंदाज़ा इस बात से लगा सकते हैं इस गाँव की गुड्डी नगेशिया बताती है कि-

“पहले हमे पानी लाने के लिये दूर तक यात्रा करनी पडती थी जिसमे बहुत समय लगता था, जल जीवन मिशन योजना के तहत जल आपूर्ती से हमें बडी राहत मिली है। अब हमे अपने घर में ही शुद्ध पेयजल की प्राप्ति हो रही है जिससे हम सभी बहुत खुश हैं, बच्चे भी समय से स्कूल जाने लगे है, अब हमें पानी हेतु दूर नहीं जाना पडता है।”

”

Building Community leader on WASH - Need of the hour

- Chanchal Kumar, NPMU, JJM and Amar Prakash, State Programme Director, WaterAid, Madhya Pradesh

In many tribal communities, access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation remains a challenge. Women in these communities, often tasked with collecting water and managing household sanitation, have an intimate understanding of the community's needs and challenges. Tribal communities, particularly in rural and remote areas, face numerous barriers to accessing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. These challenges stem from factors like geographic isolation, lack of infrastructure, limited resources, and in some cases, cultural norms that restrict women's involvement in decision-making processes.

Empowering tribal women to take leadership roles in addressing water and sanitation issues not only promotes gender equality but also significantly improves public health and overall community well-being. While visiting field, I encountered such a case in Dindori District of Madhya Pradesh where collaborated work of a local NGO, National NGO and Government Institutions working under Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission have brought wonderful result in terms of building community leadership. I am pleased to share such a story of a woman leader I met who evolved as a community leader for WASH through integrated process of learning and capacity building.

Pondi, a tiny hamlet with 110 households tucked away deep in the

tribal belt of Dindori district mainly habituated by Baiga Chak community, known for spear-leading several forest and water conservation, and land revival movements. SHG women have been at the forefront of the "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" movement that has managed to conserve 4000 acres of forest land. NIWCYD (National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development) a civil society group based in the district has been instrumental in guiding the process of conserving natural resources. As a technical support agency, WaterAid has provided crucial support in ensuring Pondi to becoming a WASH secure village in collaboration with District Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Situated 50 kms from the district headquarters, Pondi falls under the Kiwad Gram Panchayat. 90% of the community belong to the Baiga tribe who depend on the forests for their sustenance and livelihood. Pondi has a primary school and an Anganwadi Centre as well. For further studies, children attend the school at Kiwad.

Here in Pondi, you will surely come across Ujiyaro bai, a 40-year old tribal woman leader taking the message of her community's efforts to distant lands. Despite her frail frame, her resonating voice communicates the strength of her approach and actions. Assertive and confident about her work as a village volunteer, she declares, "Ask anyone and they will tell you where Ujiyaro bai lives. Ask in the neighbouring villages, in the

Panchayat, in government departments, the Collector, in the Wateraid offices and even South Africa! All know me as the Didi from the Durga Swayam Sahayta Samuh (SHG). My responsibility is to travel to different places and tell everyone about the work we have done for Jal, Jangal and Zameen."

The tribal people worship and peacefully co-exist with the natural elements. Tribal culture is disciplined and respectful towards nature as the provider. Therefore, ideas related to conservation of natural resources receives priority with the tribal community. After all, the forest ecosystem nests these human settlements providing them with almost everything they need. Ujiyaro bai is a representative of such a forest village which has benefitted from the collaboration with NIWCYD and WaterAid while working in Government Flagship Programme Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission. "The paani waale bhaiyya (WaterAid/NIWCYD team) supported our village in many ways. They helped us in getting a filter for our water, toilets and supported in bringing piped water to our homes, revived our springs, and even showed us how to level the land. It's much easier now to grow crops. Today we grow a variety of millets along with rice. Our health has got better and we do not fall ill as frequently as we used to do earlier. We are saving our traditional seeds. We did all of this bit by bit over the years. It takes time, but we have seen



Figure 33: Ujjayaro Bai interaction with villagers | Source: WaterAid, Madhya Pradesh

the results. We no longer starve for lack of food...”, says Ujjayaro bai.

“To set an example the women of our Durga SHG took the initiative to build the toilets in our own houses. Soon, others followed suit. See, if you are leader, you need to take the first step.” As president of her SHG, she opened up herself to several exposures with varied stakeholders. Her passionate and impactful communication skills covers diverse topics – be it tackling loan defaulters in the SHG, negotiating with the bank manager for SHG loans, marching to the collector office, setting rules for conservation of forest especially collection of minor forest produce, advocating for services in district departmental meetings and sharing her work in state, national and international forums. She speaks in Hindi haltingly, searching for the correct word that best describes her process, “*These paani waale bhaiyya*

gave us buddhi (knowledge), they made us understand. We would tie a rakhi to the trees. The younger trees would be our children and the older, our parents. We had to protect both!”

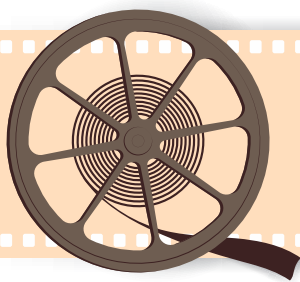
Following the revival of the natural springs, a water quality testing was done to ensure the spring water was fit for drinking. Slow Sand Filters were installed to collect potable water. Pondi now has clean drinking water with the help of Gravity Flow technique which does not require electricity to run. Pondi soon began to be covered by the media due to the innovative nature of the project.

Ujjayaro Bai has been instrumental in mobilizing the entire community for sessions on WASH, for public meetings and advocacy processes. Her method of working is democratic and she focuses on arriving at a consensus on critical issues like rules for conservation, stopping the

practice of open defecation, ensuring Pondi retains its WASH secure status. She receives complete support from her husband and three children which helps her focus on her work as a volunteer. “*Initially people would say I am earning money. But can you see my house? It's just a hut! I work for my village, not for money.*”

After this encounter, we realize, how an ordinary *adivasi* woman, after getting exposure and capacity, can become passionate and leader for advocacy in getting access to entitlements of WASH for her community in order to ensure a better quality of life for them. Do meet this committed village volunteer when you are in Pondi! With this, we also realize, when construction of toilets under SBM and water infrastructure under JJM are almost complete, this is high time to build community leader like Ujjayaro Bai, to sustain that.





Swachh Sujal Gaon - Reel Making Competition

- Amit Ranjan, JJM-NPMU

The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with MyGov is organizing a Reel-Making Contest for citizens to showcase benefits and efforts made by Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to transform villages into "Swachh Sujal Gaon". The competition is launched from 1st February, 2025 to a time duration of three months i.e., 30th April, 2025.

Under this campaign, Indian citizens have been invited to create a suitable video (in reel format) that should value and serve as a celebratory message to communicate the importance of the Jal Jeevan Mission & Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen.

**The theme of the Reel is
(pick any-one)**

Swachh Sujal Gaon:
Towards Viksit Bharat

Swachh Sujal Gaon Se
Desh Ki Tarakki

Swasth Bharat: Sujal Bharat

The reel should highlight initiatives made under Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) sector. For this,

some suggestive broad points under SBM-G and JJM are mentioned below for easy reference:

- How mission has made life easier for rural local community/ individuals;
- Its impact on their economy, livelihood, and other allied services;
- Its impact on health of rural citizens and environment, agriculture, etc;
- Overall Transformation of villages under both the mission.

Every month, the Top 05 (Five) Best Reels will be chosen as winners, and each winner will be awarded a prize of ₹ 5,000/- (INR Five Thousand only). Participants have been advised to use their imagination and creativity without the use of any offensive/ derogatory or political content etc. Broad suggested themes for the competition which can be covered:

SBMG Component

- Individual and Community Hygiene relating to water & sanitation
- Community Sanitation Initiatives
- Capturing Sanitation assets in your surroundings
- Importance of proper sanitation/ toilet
- Overcoming challenges in accessing toilets

- Promoting Menstrual Hygiene in schools and communities
- Visible cleanliness or premises
- Grey-water management initiatives

JJM Component

- Ease-of-Living by having access of clean tap water at home
 - Impact of JJM in daily life
 - Water-saving techniques
 - Importance of consumption of Quality water
 - Rainwater harvesting practices
 - Efficient use of water resources
 - Innovative Water Purification technologies
 - Addressing social and cultural norms around water sanitation & Hygiene
 - Promoting WASH practices in rural/ urban areas
- Participants should submit the video in MP4, AVI or MOV format and resolution should be minimum 720p resolution of duration upto 90 seconds to 150 seconds long. The language of the videos can be in Hindi, or English.

For details terms & Condition on
**Swachh Sujal Gaon-
Reel Making
Competition,
Scan the QR Code**



Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation and Arghyam Sign MoU to develop Digital Public Infrastructure for WASH sector

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) and Arghyam have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on developing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the WASH sector. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision to enhance water and sanitation service delivery through digital solutions.

The partnership aims to conceptualize, design, and implement a digital ecosystem to support the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G). Under this agreement, SPM-NIWAS will lead the implementation, while Arghyam, a key knowledge partner, will contribute its expertise in technology-driven water governance.

Key focus areas include:

- Developing open APIs and interoperable solutions to enable data-driven decision-making.
- Strengthening state institutions for efficient operation and maintenance of water assets.
- Building participatory digital platforms for sustainable water management.

A Consultative Committee comprising representatives from SPM-NIWAS, DDWS, and Arghyam will oversee the project's execution. This collaboration will accelerate digital transformation in the WASH sector, ensuring safe, sustainable water access for all.



Figure 34: MoU Signing ceremony between SPM NIWAS and Arghyam | Source: SPM NIWAS



Extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till 2028

Budget outlay for Jal Jeevan Mission enhanced to Rs. 67,000 Crore

While presenting the Union Budget 2025-26 in the Parliament on 1st February, 2025, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the total budget outlay for Jal Jeevan Mission has been enhanced to Rs 67,000 Crore. She said that the Mission stands extended until 2028.

During her budget speech, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman stated that 15 crore households representing 80 per cent of India's rural population have benefitted by the Jal

Jeevan Mission since 2019. She added that access to potable tap water connections is provided under this Mission and in the next three years the target is to achieve 100 per cent coverage.

Jal Jeevan Mission's focus will be on the quality of infrastructure and O&M of rural piped water supply schemes through "Jan Bhagidhari". Separate MoUs will be signed with states/UTs, to ensure sustainability and citizen-centric water service delivery, informed Smt. Sitharaman.



Meetings/ Webinars

In a meeting held on 11.02.2025, Secretary-DDWS addressed the States/ UTs regarding the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission and highlighted the focus of extended phase i.e.,

- ◆ Quality Infra;
- ◆ O&M of RPWSS through Jan-Bhagidari;

- ◆ Sustainability;
- ◆ Citizen Centric water service delivery; and
- ◆ Modalities of MoUs to be signed.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from States. From NJJM, AS&MD, JS and AOs were present. *Figure: 35* ▼



Field Visit

AS&MD-NJJM visited Rakampura and Kodyat (tribal) villages in Udaipur District, Rajasthan on 19.02.2025 to see the progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. During the visit, he interacted with the local village community, members of AWCs, Sarpanches, etc. While interacting, he stressed upon the need of water conservation, greywater

management, ownership of schemes, Water Quality, etc. Further he laid emphasis on ensuring water harvesting measures and advised PHED officials to ensure safe drinking water in far-flung habitations. From State, PHED officials were present during visit. *Figure: 36* ▼



Visits of National WaSH Experts



Figure 37: Debriefing meeting with District Magistrate of Sidharthnagar District Uttar Pradesh near Gorakhpur | Source: NWEs



Figure 38: Debriefing, made to the respected, Shri Balasubramanian, IAS, the District Collector, #Kalimpong District, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, WB in presence his team, AD Dev, PH Nodal officer, SBMG LO, DPRDO with record of observations presented | Source: NWEs



Figure 39: Debriefing to Deputy Commissioner, Kalimpong at the end of the visit | Source: NWEs



Figure 40: Meeting with DC/DM Howrah, West Bengal | Source: NWEs



Figure 41: Meeting with DM and ADM ZP and Executive Engineers of PHE Directorate today the 21st of feb 2024 district Nadia WB | Source: NWEs



Figure 42: Meeting with DM and ADM Purulia District. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Chadha NWE | Source: NWEs

Visits of National WaSH Experts



Figure 43: De-Briefing meeting with District Collector, Bundi (Rajasthan)
Shree Akshay Godara, IAS | Source: NWEs



Figure 44: Debriefing meeting with Mrs J Reebha IAS,
District Banda, UP | Source: NWEs



Figure 45: Debriefing meeting with ADM looking after the JJM Mathura
district Uttar Pradesh | Source: NWEs



Figure 46: Debriefing Meeting with D.M. Purba Medinipur,
West Bengal | Source: NWEs



Figure 47: Meeting with Additional District Magistrate, Uttar Dinajpur district
of West Bengal for debriefing | Source: NWEs



Figure 48: De briefing meeting with Mr. Sreenidhi B.T. IAS D.M. Dholpur
after completion of visit, in presence of PhD officers | Source: NWEs





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