Jal Jeevan Samvad

July | Volume 5 | Issue 7 | Year 2024

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Special feature
Best practices in coping with disaster

Contents

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46th Edition
July 2024

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Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the past 10 years, the NDA government has made development its biggest resolution. Today, we have the resolution to make Bharat the third-largest economy in the world. After so many years of independence, ***we are resolved to provide pure drinking water, to ensure water reaches every home.***

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha, 2nd July 2024

Due to climate change, the frequency of natural disasters is on the rise. Addressing this challenge requires collective action. States must bolster their disaster resilience capacities to protect against natural calamities. Equally important is ensuring access to ***clean drinking water and prioritizing healthcare for the common man.*** *I am confident that the States will actively engage in addressing these fundamental tasks by demonstrating political will.*

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha, 3rd July 2024

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

New Delhi
31st July, 2024

It is with immense pride and joy that we announce a significant milestone in our journey this month – the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has reached the remarkable achievement of providing tap water connections to 15 crore rural households. This is not just another number but a result of the collective effort, dedication, and resilience of states, partners, and communities working together. It is a proud moment for all of us, showcasing the power of collaboration and determination.

As the summer heat gives way to the monsoon, we are reminded of the unique challenges and opportunities this season brings. The monsoon, with its blessings, also poses challenges, from water quality issues to increased susceptibility to illnesses. Ensuring access to clean water is crucial for health and well-being, especially during this season. One inspiring example comes from Assam, where in flood-affected areas JJM remained functional. This achievement underscores how our collective efforts are making a real difference on the ground, even in the face of natural disasters.

This month has been particularly insightful, marked by review meetings led by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil and field visits from senior officials of the department. These engagements have provided valuable insights into the progress of JJM at every stage on the ground. They have also been instrumental in identifying challenges and closing gaps, ensuring that our efforts are aligned and effective. Preparing for the monsoon involves a range of activities. Cleaning water tanks, repairing leakages, and ensuring the structural integrity of water infrastructure are critical steps. These practices are essential to prevent waterborne diseases and ensure that every drop of water is safe for consumption.

Groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting are more important than ever during the monsoon. By capturing and storing rainwater, we not only ensure a steady supply of water but also help in mitigating the impact of water scarcity during dry periods. Many states have taken up innovative rainwater harvesting projects, turning them into success stories that inspire others. Reviving traditional water harvesting systems is another way we are learning from the past to solve today's problems. These age-old practices offer sustainable solutions and have proven to be effective in many regions. By combining traditional wisdom with modern technology, we are creating resilient water management systems. This issue contains such stories from the ground which will serve as an inspiration for others as well.

Every summer season, we are confronted with heat waves, which are becoming more intense now-a-days. These months, drinking water supply systems are tested in view of depleting resources. The department consistently engaged with States/ UTs since March 2024 itself to draw their attention to the need for prioritisation and continuity in drinking water.

Seasonality in water is a critical factor which needs to be factored into our everyday water practices for better management of our systems. The Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign focuses on water conservation and rainwater harvesting across the nation, encouraging communities to prepare for the monsoon season by capturing and storing rainwater effectively. The initiative plays a crucial role in addressing water scarcity, promoting sustainable water management practices at the grassroots level.

The 'STOP DIARRHOEA campaign' has been another significant effort during the monsoon. Through awareness drives and the distribution of ORS packets, communities are better equipped to handle waterborne diseases. Health workers and community volunteers have been pivotal in this campaign, ensuring that people have the knowledge and resources to stay healthy.

Water testing is a crucial aspect of ensuring water safety. Before and after the monsoon, lab technicians work diligently to test for contamination, safeguarding public health. Women's involvement in water testing using FTKs has added an extra layer of vigilance, ensuring that water sources and delivery points are regularly checked. Jal Jeevan Mission is not just about providing access to water; it's about empowering communities and creating sustainable water management practices. The collaborative efforts of states, development partners, and communities are turning the vision of JJM into reality, one step at a time.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we are making a difference and building a water-resilient nation. Enjoy this edition of Jal Jeevan Samvad, and let's continue to work together towards a brighter, water-secure future.

[Chandra Bhushan Kumar]

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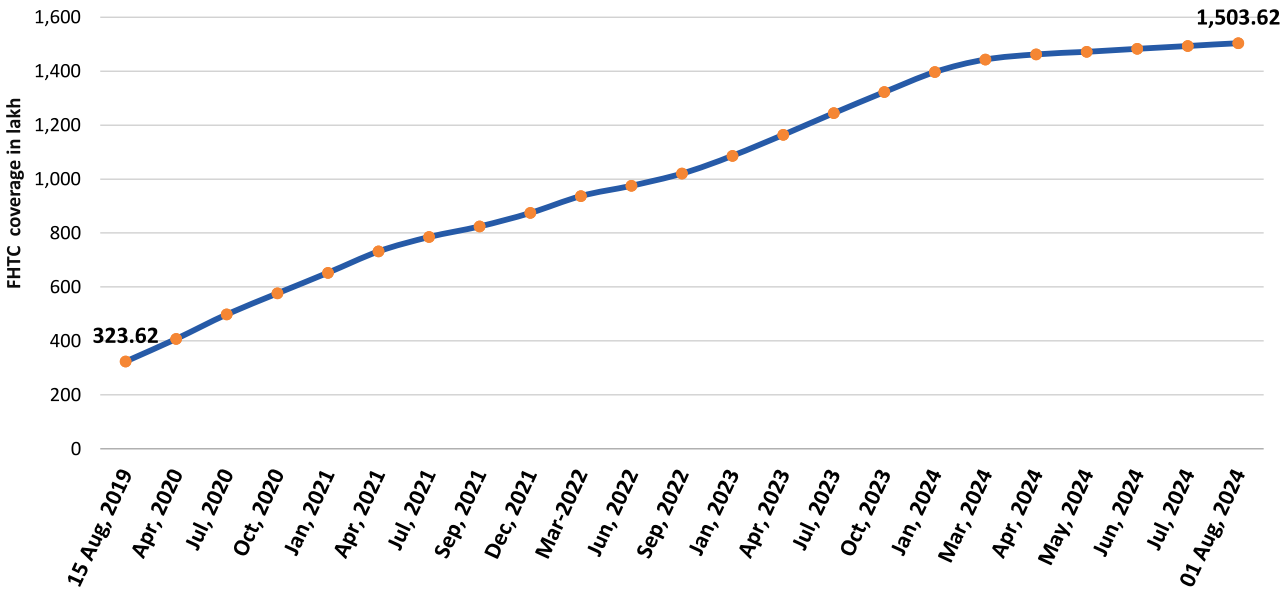
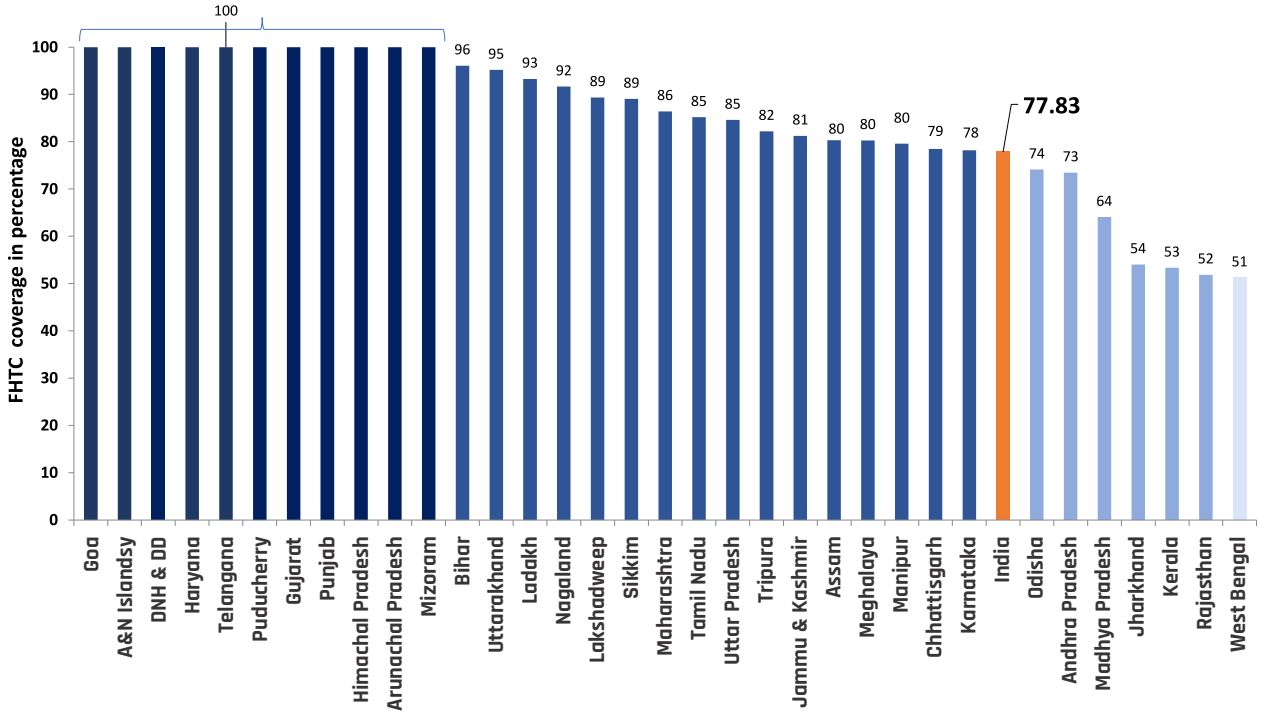
Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.07.2024)



Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.07.2024)



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As on 31st July, 2024

Source: JJM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

Total number of households (HHs)	Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019	Households with tap water connections as on date
19,31,93,302	**3,23,62,838** (16.75%)	+39,386 **15,03,62,499** (77.83%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

11,79,99,661 (73.37%)

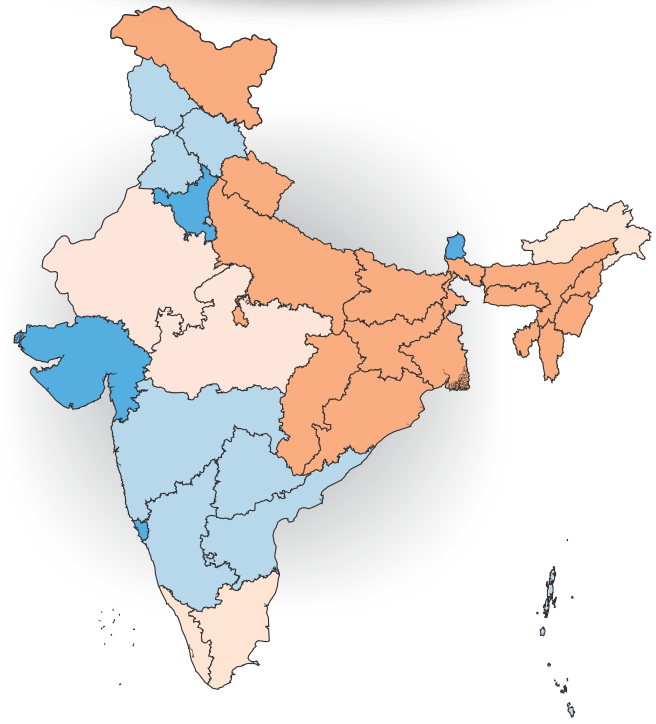
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

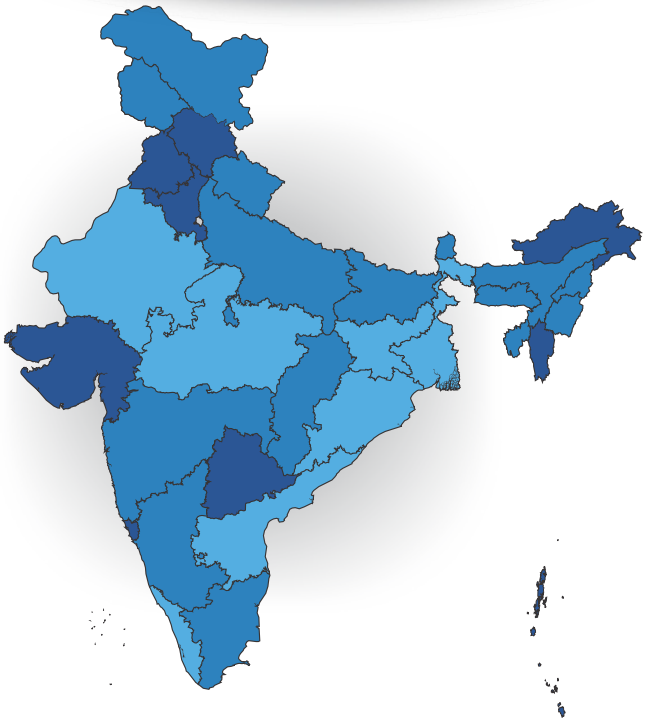
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducheerry, D&NH and D&D, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Gujarat

100% FHTC Districts	100% FHTC Blocks	100% FHTC Panchayats	100% FHTC Villages
190	1,835	1,09,201	2,30,717

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 31st July, 2024



0 to <10% | 10% to <25% | 25% to <50% | 50% to <75% | 75% to <100% | 100%

Building Flood Resilient Communities: Climate-Adaptive WASH Structures in Assam's Flood-Prone Areas

- **Prithibhusan Deka**, Gramya Vikash Mancha and **Asmita Saha**, WaterAid India

Introduction

Assam endures multiple waves of flooding annually due to its unique geography, monsoon rains, and vast web of river networks spread across the state. The recurring nature of these floods, especially in the Brahmaputra, has earned it the name "river of sorrow," highlighting the never-ending plight of the people residing in its vast floodplain. These floods not only damage local infrastructure and crops, but they also trigger a healthcare crisis by compromising access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

In response to the problem faced by the locals, Gramya Vikash Mancha (GVM) has been working for over two decades with Assam's most vulnerable communities residing in flood-prone areas to improve their resilience by supporting the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) by creating climate-adaptive WASH structures. The JJM is a national initiative that aims to provide access to potable drinking water in adequate quantities at the doorstep by laying a piped household tap connection. However, this ambitious project faces significant challenges due to India's diverse geo-climatic conditions, especially in regions prone to natural disasters like flood in Assam. Recognising these climate-induced WASH challenges and successfully sustaining JJM implementation in such vulnerable geographies, GVM actively engages local communities at every stage of their interventions and post-intervention efforts. Through this collaborative approach, GVM aims to enhance flood resilience, addressing both immediate needs and long-term challenges.

Fig 1: A woman in Jobalating, Assam, taking water from tap provided under JJM during heavy floods | Source: PHED, Assam

The WASH Crisis and GVM's targeted response in Assam

During floods, most drinking water sources in the affected areas become inaccessible, damaged with debris, and vulnerable to contamination. During floods, water bodies frequently submerge and experience power outages, rendering them inoperable. Earlier stranded residents were forced to rely on bottled drinking water, which quickly runs out of stock or becomes extremely expensive. Communities, already under stress, were compelled to rely on collected rainwater or even floodwater for drinking. But with the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission piped water is

reaching even the flooded region of Assam. Clean and safe drinking water is reaching every rural household.

Similarly, submerged toilets force people to resort to unsanitary and risky practices, such as building temporary facilities or using local boats made from banana plants for defecation. Such practices not only pose health risks but also lack safety and privacy, particularly for women.

While flooding affects a large portion of Assam, the impacts on lower Assam districts are worse. This occurs due to the accumulation of silt in the river course of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries, particularly in lower Assam. Moreover, due to the low gradient and congestion in the river bed, the flood water takes time to recede. Recognising the disproportionate impact of floods on the lower Assam region, GVM has focused its efforts in three highly vulnerable districts: Kamrup (Rural), Barpeta, and Nalbari. These districts are predominantly rural and socio-economically backward, making them susceptible to long-term flood impacts. Realising the contextual reality of the location, GVM's interventions aim to provide access to simple WASH infrastructures while engaging with the community over extended periods to encourage behaviour change and foster a sense of ownership.

Climate-Adaptive WASH Interventions

GVM's climate-adaptive solutions are designed to remain functional during inundations and are easy to build and maintain, ensuring continuous access to clean water and sanitation facilities for the communities even in the midst of flooding events. Similarly, trainings, awareness camps, and community mobilisation interventions encourage behaviour change and ownership among the beneficiaries.

a) Installation of Elevated Handpumps

In all three districts, other than JJM taps, handpumps are a common source of drinking water, especially during floods. Handpumps requires low investment that with some improvisation it can be flood resilient. Hence, a functional handpump during flood remains to be a good support to JJM taps. The floods submerge and damage nearly all water sources, including handpumps. Due to the recurring nature of floods and the poor economic conditions of local residents, the such damaged handpumps often remain unrepaired. To address this challenge, GVM improvised the design of handpumps as per the requirements of the location. The plinth of the handpump is raised above the highest recorded flood level, with slopes of the raised platform covered by local grass to prevent erosion. The platform of the handpumps is made of *pakka* (concrete) with a drainage outlet. Over 20 years, GVM installed 283 elevated handpumps in 153 villages, providing clean water to more than 10,000 households during floods. With increased depths of 18-25 metres, these handpumps extract uncontaminated groundwater even during floods.

To ensure sustainability, GVM collaborated with local Public Health Engineering (PHED) and Health Department by creating awareness and train the community, particularly mothers, youth, and community leaders. The training focus on how to use purifiers, safe storage, and handpump maintenance. By complementing JJM with climate-adaptive solutions, GVM addresses immediate needs while building long-term community resilience to annual floods.

b) Distribution of Water Filters

In addition to elevated handpumps and the JJM household tap connections, GVM has implemented a water filter distribution programme. Flooding can lead to contamination of water sources with pathogens, sediments, and pollutants. Water filters can ensure that the water

Fig 2: Submerged handpumps in intervention area during floods | Source: PHED, Assam

Fig 3: Elevated platform handpumps in intervention area | Source: PHED, Assam

supplied through JJM taps and handpumps are safe for potable use. With the support of United Way, Mumbai, GVM has taken the initiative to provide high-quality water filters and has covered 10,000 households, particularly in villages where elevated handpumps have been installed by them. The filters are selected for effectiveness, durability, and user-friendliness, ensuring easy operation and maintenance. While distributing these filters, GVM engaged with community stakeholders to identify and prioritise access to these filters for socio-economically deprived households with pregnant and lactating mothers, the physically challenged, the elderly, and those with prolonged illnesses. Additionally, GVM also prioritises providing filters to government schools and ICDS centres, as they play a crucial role in offering shelter and food during flooding. Beneficiaries receive regular training on filter maintenance, equipping the community to perform basic repairs, and ensuring proper use amid floods.

c) Construction of Elevated Toilets

As part of its comprehensive WASH strategy, GVM has implemented an innovative elevated toilet programme in traditional flood shelters or in high land locations in the three districts. This elevation is carefully calculated to ensure the toilets remain functional and accessible even during severe floods. This initiative not only protects public health but also preserves dignity and privacy for community members during challenging times. So far, GVM has constructed a total of 29 toilet blocks in different traditional flood shelters and in the most vulnerable villages. The locations for these toilet blocks were identified with the help of village welfare committees, prioritising their construction in existing community flood shelters, including school premises. This community-driven approach was adopted to ensure that the facilities are built where they are most needed.

d) Construction of Elevated Platforms for Shelter

In Nalbari district, GVM has implemented a comprehensive flood shelter programme by constructing 11 elevated shelters, including a playground, at more than 1 metre above the highest recorded flood level. Each shelter can accommodate 500 people each and feature gender-separated toilets (each shelter has 6 toilets and 2 bathrooms) and raised handpumps.

Fig 4: Toilet block with elevated shelter constructed in intervention area | Source: PHED, Assam

These facilities address hygiene issues during floods, preserving dignity and health during displacement. GVM further transfers infrastructure management to local committees, ensuring long-term maintenance and remain functional. GVM has also established linkages with local health and civil administration to ensure availability of health and other essential services during flood situations.

e) Installation of Water Treatment Plants and Water ATMs

To address the critical need for safe drinking water during floods, GVM has implemented seven water treatment infrastructure in Nalbari and Barpeta districts. These plants also remove arsenic and iron and is integrated with the water ATM system. With a daily capacity of 6,000 litres, each plant can dispense 20 litres of purified water per household at a nominal charge of INR 7–10. The location of the plants is selected after community consultation, ensuring accessibility even during floods. While JJM provides household tap connections, these ATMs serve as a crucial system, ensuring access to safe drinking water even at public places where floating population usually visists like markets, bus stands, hospitals, places of worship.

GVM has implemented a comprehensive training programme for local community members, equipping them with the skills to operate and perform basic maintenance on these systems. For complex issues, GVM has trained dedicated operators and established links with technical agencies.

To ensure long-term sustainability, each plant has been handed over to a water-user committee or village welfare committee. These committees, which include community representatives such as panchayat members and ICDS workers, oversee maintenance, service quality, and periodic water testing. This multi-faceted approach not only provides a reliable source of potable water during floods but also builds local capacity for long-term water management while fostering community ownership and resilience.

Fig 5: Toilet Water ATM in intervention area | Source: PHED, Assam

F) Community training on JJM and water management

In 2023, GVM collaborated with WaterAid India and JJM Assam to organize district-level training series for Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Nalbari and other districts. The participants included CLF members, Community WASH Coordinators (CWCs) from PHED, district coordinators from Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) and volunteers from GVM.

The training programme introduced participants to the JJM framework, stakeholder roles, water quality management, and Village Action Plan development. It covered JJM

Fig 6: JJM planning and design process training by GVM and WaterAid | Source: PHED, Assam

programme planning, design, importance of IEC activities, and the Har Ghar Jal certification.

By demystifying the planning and design processes of JJM, the training aimed to empower participants with essential skills and knowledge. This approach was designed to enhance the odds of successful JJM implementation in their flood-prone districts. Ultimately, the training series provided clarity on the crucial roles that community members and CLF representatives play in ensuring the success of JJM, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among them.

The role of the community in the success of the interventions:

GVM's success in Assam is built on a strong foundation of community engagement throughout their WASH interventions. By fostering continuous interaction and collaboration, GVM has cultivated a network of dedicated community volunteers who form the core of their initiatives. These volunteers, with at least 4 in each village, serve as vital links between residents and authorities. These local volunteers have a multifaceted role that includes distributing water during floods, leading awareness campaigns on water, sanitation, and hygiene management, and facilitating regular water quality testing through Field Test Kits (FTKs) and water testing local laboratories.

During the 2022 flood, the volunteers, in collaboration with PHED, arranged for five water tankers per day to serve 23 highly vulnerable villages in the Barbhag revenue circle. They mobilised communities to support water distribution initiatives and utilised PHED's emergency helpline numbers to communicate water demands and identify safe distribution locations. This coordinated effort ensured that dedicated water tanks reached affected areas within 30 minutes of a request, providing communities with access to safe drinking water. After the flood, GVM volunteers collaborated with PHED in Nalbari district, organising hygiene awareness programmes in schools and ICDS centres. They supported a month-long distribution of purified water in affected villages. PHED supplied 75,000 halogen tablets and 12,000 litres of packaged drinking water, which GVM volunteers distributed to impacted households. This coordinated effort between GVM and PHED demonstrates that community-driven initiatives complement JJM, especially during crises, ensuring continued access to safe drinking water in flood-prone regions.

Fig 7: Participatory rural appraisal activities in one of the intervention villages in Kamrup(Rural) district | Source: PHED, Assam

Conclusion

GVM has implemented all these activities with the support of different national and international development agencies, such as ActionAid Association, UNICEF, ECHO, FADV-Italy, United Way, Mumbai, etc. GVM's work in Assam demonstrates the power of combining climate-adaptive WASH structures with strong community engagement. By involving local communities throughout the process, GVM has not only provided essential infrastructure but also built the capacity of flood-prone communities to manage their WASH needs effectively. By integrating their efforts with the JJM and involving departments like PHED, GVM has created a more resilient and adaptive system so that water reaches the community. This strategy not only addresses immediate needs during floods but also contributes to long-term community resilience and sustainable water management practices. Recognising the success of the intervention, GVM has expanded their efforts to the Bodoland Territorial Region, specifically in the districts of Baksa and Tamulpur. As climate related disasters intensify, GVM's community-centric adaptive approach can be adopted in similar geographies. This approach helps build resilient communities and enhance JJM's effectiveness in such challenging environments, providing hope for other flood-prone and vulnerable regions.

Ensuring water security in over-exploited groundwater areas of Gujarat

Shri Nageshwar Patidar (WASH Specialist, UNICEF Gujarat); **Shri Rajesh Karan** (State CR-WASH Consultant, UNICEF Gujarat), **Shri Tejas Deshmukh** (State CR-WASH Consultant, UNICEF Gujarat)

Ground water has played an important role in increasing food and agricultural production, providing safe drinking water and facilitating industrial development in India. It contributes fresh water to meet the requirement of nearly 65% of total irrigated area, nearly 85% of the rural drinking water supply and 50% of the urban drinking water needs of the country[1]. Over the last three decades, the rapid expansion in the use of groundwater, primarily for irrigation, has contributed significantly to its agricultural production and overall economic development. This has also resulted in India becoming the largest ground water extractor in the world.

The rapid and extensive extraction of groundwater, however, has come at a price. The limited groundwater resources in the country are under threat due to indiscriminate use. Intensive and unregulated groundwater pumping in many areas has caused rapid and widespread decline in ground water levels. As per the latest Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment (2023), carried out by CGWB, out of 252 assessment units (blocks) in Gujarat, 23 blocks (9.13 %) have been categorized as 'Over- exploited', 8 blocks (3.17 %) as 'Critical', 20 blocks (7.94 %) as 'Semi-critical', 189 blocks (75.00 %) as 'Safe' and there are 12 blocks (4.76 %) in 'Saline' category.

Impact of climate change on groundwater is emerging as a major challenge. The increasing variability in rainfall could mean more frequent and prolonged periods of droughts and floods. The effects of climate change on groundwater may result in a long-term decline in groundwater storage, saline intrusion in coastal aquifers due to sea level rise and overall resource reduction. Atal Bujal Yojana (ABHY) addresses the specific challenges related to sustainable management of groundwater resources in rural areas of Gujarat. This initiative is part of broader efforts to promote water security, improve public health, empower rural communities, and enhance the overall sustainability of groundwater resources.

Water Scenario of Gujarat – Initiatives and Interlinkages

Gujarat has had a significant history of grappling with water crisis, being one of the highly water-stressed states of India. The annual per capita water availability in Gujarat was approximately 1,050 cubic metre per person per year in 2011 which is likely to fall to 360 cubic metre per person per year in 2050[2].

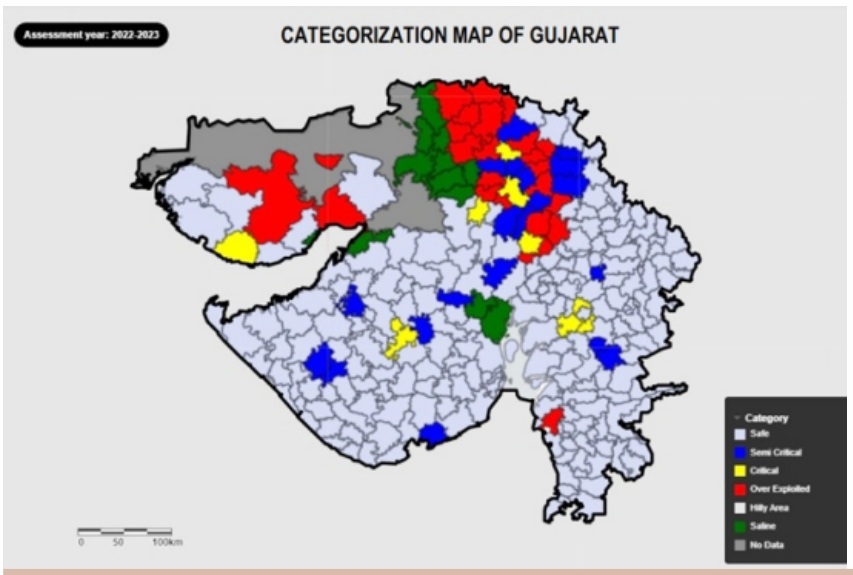


Fig 8: Snapshot of the categorization of blocks in Gujarat
Source: Groundwater Resource Assessment Report, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) 2023

[1] Atal Bhujal Yojana Program Guidelines (Ver. 1.1)
[2] https://kalpasar.gujarat.gov.in/sites/default/files/kalpasar-english-presentation_1.pptx

The demand for water, particularly for agriculture and industries, outstrips the available supply, leaving some regions facing acute shortages in Gujarat. This uneven distribution of water is further compounded by over-extraction of groundwater, leading to a decline in the groundwater table and jeopardizing long-term sustainability.

But amidst these challenges, ABHY, introduced in 2020, is bringing a wave of change by empowering communities to manage their groundwater resources sustainably through efficient water use practices and community-led initiatives and fostering behavioural change among stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources.

Furthermore, water harvesting and conservation measures are capturing rainwater and promoting efficient irrigation, optimizing the use of every precious drop.

ABHY complements the efforts of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for source sustainability in the state.

The combined efforts highlight Gujarat to be determined to overcome its water woes and build a more water secure future. Both the schemes – JJM and ABHY play a significant role to address the issues of water in the state of Gujarat.

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) is significant in addressing Gujarat's water management challenges comprehensively.

1. **Sustainable Groundwater Management:** Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) primarily focuses on groundwater management and aims to address the issue of over-exploitation and depletion of groundwater resources in identified areas. By ensuring sustainable use of groundwater, ABHY lays down the foundation for long-term water security.

2. **Source Augmentation:** Atal Bhujal Yojana's efforts in recharging groundwater and improving its quality directly contributes to augmenting water sources for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

3. **Community Participation and Awareness:** Atal Bhujal Yojana emphasizes community participation and awareness in groundwater management activities. The programme facilitates convergence of efforts at the grassroot level, encouraging communities to actively participate in groundwater recharge and conservation initiatives.

4. **Integrated Approach:** An integrated approach towards water resource management involves both groundwater and surface water use in a sustainable manner. An integrated approach ensures that efforts to improve water availability through Jal Jeevan Mission are complemented by measures to safeguard groundwater resources under Atal Bhujal Yojana.

5. **Policy Synergy:** Aligning the objectives and implementation strategies of ABHY and JJM fosters policy coherence and synergy at the national and state levels. It enables better coordination among various stakeholders, including govern-

Bridging the gaps – Khanpur's quest for water safety and security

Located in Dehgam block of Gandhinagar District, water has always been of utmost importance for residents of Khanpur village. Around 24 years back, women in the village used to walk long distances to fetch a single pot of water from the public standpost late into the night. Around 7-8 such trips we required to be made daily by the women of each household in the village to meet the requirements of the family.

With continuous engagement with the administration, today three piped water supply schemes are catering to the demands by ensuring provision of safe water to 533 households living in Khanpur village through functional household tap connections. But the Gram Panchayat did not stop there. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, villagers wanted to ensure a water secure future for the future generations.

A community-led water security plan (WSP) was developed with participation of multiple stakeholders including District Implementation Partner (DIP) and a groundwater recharging structure has been setup near the freshwater pond of the village. As part of the participatory groundwater management (PGWM) committee meeting, the WSP is being updated annually through shared responsibility of the community as per the dynamic needs of securing groundwater in the village.

To ensure equitable distribution of water resources for residents of Khanpur village, the Gram Panchayat is working on interlinking of village ponds as part of community-led water security plan under Atal Bhujal Yojana.

ment agencies, local bodies, and communities, leading to more efficient utilization of resources and enhanced outcomes in terms of water security and rural development.

Sustainable groundwater management in Gujarat

Gujarat Water Resources Development Corporation (GWRDC) in partnership with UNICEF Gujarat has rolled out a comprehensive capacity-building plan focusing on water security and safety for six highly water-stressed districts of Gujarat at State and District level. The plan included various key components aimed at addressing critical water challenges and fostering local solutions.

- Field visits were conducted to over-exploited groundwater blocks for understanding local challenges and need for targeted interventions.
- Customized training modules were prepared for Master Trainers (MTs) under the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), with a specific focus on enhancing water safety and security planning approaches.
- Capacity-building programme was rolled out in collaboration with the Ground Water Research and Development Centre (GWRDC) and Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), scheduled in three phases.

Improved groundwater management measures are helping in mitigating the risks of droughts and water scarcity, ensuring a stable water supply for agriculture and drinking purposes in Gujarat. Additionally, sustainable water use practices is reducing the strain on natural resources, contributing to climate resilience. By promoting water conservation and efficient usage at community level, ABHY is supporting the long-term environmental sustainability, essential for adapting to the challenges posed by climate change. Overall, Atal Bhujal Yojana represents a significant step towards ensuring water security and building resilience against climate-induced hazards in Gujarat. By integrating efforts in groundwater management and rural water supply services, these schemes synergize their objectives, resources, and actions to achieve sustainable and equitable access to water for all.

Results of the engagement

- 104 GP level master trainers capacitated from 6 districts under ABHY – Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Patan, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Kutch
- GP level capacity building programme has reached out to 1,798 GPs (96% of the targeted GPs under ABHY) and 99,426 (46% female) direct beneficiaries in 6 targeted districts.
- Trainings imparted on 4 out of 5 Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) - Demonstration of Groundwater monitoring Instruments, Data Disclosure board and its usage and efficient water use practices.

Fig 9: Water testing and training sessions being carried out | Source: UNICEF

Resilience in Adversity: Overcoming Monsoon Challenges in Arunachal Pradesh

- **SJJM Cell,** Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh, the 'Land of the Dawn-lit-Mountains', is a picturesque Himalayan state known for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Despite its challenging terrain and remote locations, Arunachal Pradesh has achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). This initiative has made Arunachal Pradesh the first state in the entire Northeast to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all rural households, ensuring healthy communities and students. The mission has seen the creation of various infrastructure such as water treatment plants, filtration units, and advanced technological interventions.

However, being a Himalayan state, Arunachal Pradesh faced significant challenges in implementing the mission. Despite these hurdles, the mission was completed on time, and the state celebrated the *Har Ghar Jal* declaration. Yet, nature had its own plans. The recent harsh monsoon brought landslides and heavy rains all around the state, damaging the assets created under JJM. Through the dedicated efforts by team of PHED, , the department was able to restore the damages and ensure smooth water supply in the affected regions.

Monsoon Challenges and PHE&WSD's (Public Health Engineering & Water Supply Department) Response

The recent monsoon rains in Arunachal Pradesh have been particularly harsh, causing widespread damage to the water supply infrastructure developed under the Jal Jeevan Mission. In many areas, water supply structures were damaged due to heavy rains and landslides. The PHE&WSD team from divisions, led by dedicated Executive Engineers (EEs), took swift action to restore the damaged infrastructure and ensure continuous water supply to its consumers.

Kodukha Division, Upper Subansiri district: Swift and Strategic Action

In the Kodukha division, Executive Engineer Koduka reported that the recent monsoon rains had damaged various water supply structures. The actions taken to protect and restore the damaged water supply system included:

I. **Engagement of Labour from Non-Affected Areas:** The division mobilized labour from non-affected areas to assist in the affected regions, ensuring that there was sufficient manpower to carry out restoration work.

II. **Trenching of Drainage Systems**: To mitigate the impact of landslides, trenches and pits were dug near water supply structures in vulnerable areas. This helped to redirect water flow and reduce the pressure on these structures.

III. **Partial Diversion of Streams:** In hilly regions like Koduka, streams that were likely to increase their discharge by more than five times were partially diverted using boulders and wood. This proactive measure helped to manage the increased water flow.

IV. **Use of Tarpaulin Covers:** Tarpaulins were used to cover landslide-prone areas near vulnerable structures, providing temporary protection from further damage.

V. **Construction of Temporary Headworks:** Immediate restoration of water supply was achieved through the construction of temporary headworks.

VI. **Community Engagement through Shramadaan:** The local community participated in Shramadaan (voluntary labor) to clear mudslides and other debris, demonstrating a collective effort to restore normalcy.

Likabali Division, Lower Siang distric: Restoring Pipelines and Headworks

In the Likabali division, landslides caused significant damage to the pipeline infrastructure, interrupting the water flow from the headwork, which was also damaged. The PHE&WSD team in Likabali undertook the following measures to restore water supply:

Fig 10: Restoration efforts at Likabali | Source: PHED, Arunachl Pardesh

I. **Repair and Replacement of Damaged Pipelines**: The damaged pipelines were swiftly repaired or replaced to ensure the restoration of water flow.

II. **Reconstruction of Headworks**: Temporary headworks were constructed to manage the immediate water supply needs, with plans for permanent reconstruction once the monsoon subsides.

Koloriang Division, Kurung Kumey District: Tackling River Flooding

The Koloriang division faced a unique challenge with the flooding of the Papi River, which damaged the headwork and disrupted the water supply. The division's efforts included:

I. **Temporary Restoration and Cleaning:** Temporary restoration of the headworks and cleaning of the presedimentation tank at the Papi River were carried out to manage the immediate water needs of Koloriang township.

II. **Diversion of Water Flow:** Efforts were made to divert the flow of water at the Drop inlet type headwork, ensuring that the water supply could continue despite the damage.

Overcoming Challenges with Innovation and Community Support

The challenges faced during the heavy monsoon season were immense, the dedication and innovative approaches of the PHE&WSD teams across different divisions/districts ensured that the damage was managed effectively. Here are some of the key strategies and support systems that played a crucial role:

Use of Advanced Technology

The implementation of advanced technological interventions under the Jal Jeevan Mission played a significant role in mitigating the impact of the monsoon. The use of real-time monitoring systems, automated water management, and remote sensing technology allowed the PHE&WSD teams to quickly identify and address issues as they arose.

Community Involvement

Community involvement was a cornerstone of the mitigation efforts. The PHE&WSD teams actively engaged local communities through Shramadaan. This collective effort not only provided the necessary manpower but also fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among the villagers.

Proactive Measures and Planning

The PHE&WSD teams had pre-emptive plans in place to address potential monsoon-related challenges. These plans included the construction of temporary protective structures, diversion of water flows, and the use of tarpaulins and other materials to safeguard vulnerable areas.

Social Media

Throughout the monsoon challenges and the subsequent restoration efforts, the Arunachal Pradesh JJM team maintained a robust presence on social media. Updates regarding the affected regions and timeline for restoration were posted by PHED officers and staff time to time. The restoration activities were regularly posted on platforms like Twitter/X and Facebook. These updates were shared by the official handle of Arunachal Pradesh JJM as well as by district/division-level handles. Additionally, the WhatsApp groups

Fig 11 Restoration efforts at Likabali | Source: PHED, Arunachal Pardesh

were also used for information dissemination by VWSCs.

Conclusion

The recent monsoon challenges in Arunachal Pradesh have tested the resilience and dedication of Team PHE&WSD. Their swift actions, innovative solutions, and community collaboration ensured the continuous supply of safe drinking water despite the adversities. The successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in this Himalayan state, combined with the effective response to natural calamities, stands as a testament to the commitment and hard work of all involved. As Arunachal Pradesh continues to progress, the lessons learned and the strategies adopted during this monsoon season will undoubtedly serve as a blueprint for future endeavours, ensuring the sustainability and reliability of water supply systems across the state.

Empowering Women in Water Surveillance: Best Practices for Disaster Resilience

- **Dziesetseinuo Kiso,** Kohima District Chemist and **Utkarsha Rathi,** NJJM

Fig 12: Melevinu Ltu, Kidima village carrying out monthly water quality surveillance through a FTK | Source: PHED, Nagaland

Access to basic facilities, including clean potable water during natural disasters is crucial for the affected population. It helps mitigate the immediate stress of health and sanitation related issues and provides a longer timeframe for remedial measures. In the face of natural disasters, access to clean and safe water becomes a critical challenge. Women who are often at the forefront of managing household water needs, play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and quality of water in affected regions. By engaging women in water surveillance and testing at both the source and delivery points, we can enhance resilience and preparedness in disaster-prone areas. This approach not only empowers women but also strengthens community-wide efforts to secure reliable and safe water supplies during emergencies.

Effective water surveillance and testing at both the source and delivery points are crucial for mitigating the impact of disasters on water quality. By identifying potential contaminants early, these practices help prevent waterborne diseases, which can spread rapidly in crisis situations. Regular monitoring ensures that any deviations from safe water standards are promptly detected and addressed, reducing health risks for the affected population. Additionally, maintaining the integrity of water sources and delivery systems minimizes disruptions, ensuring a consistent supply of safe water.

Involving women in these efforts leverages their unique insights and roles within the community, enhancing the overall effectiveness of crisis management strategies. Their active participation in surveillance and testing not only bolsters water safety but also fosters a sense of community resilience and empowerment.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the significant role women play in water quality management. From grassroots initiatives to policy making, women are making impactful contributions that are shaping the future of water management globally. Historically, in Kohima, Nagaland, women have been primary caretakers of water-related tasks in several societies, from fetching water to managing household water use. They often have a deep understanding of local water issues, including pollution sources, water use patterns, and community needs. Thus, involving them in water quality management becomes the need of the hour.

Women are emerging as dynamic leaders driving transformative change in water quality management. Through field testing kit (FTK) training, these women are not only breaking barriers but also empowering their communities and inspiring others to take charge of preserving our most vital resource. Their remarkable efforts showcase the profound impact of women's leadership in tackling complex environmental challenges. Out of many such empowered women who are taking the lead in crisis management, is Melevini Ltu, who has made instrumental measures to ensure clean drinking water for all.

Melevinu Ltu, a woman hailing from Kidima village, Kohima, Nagaland, underwent FTK training provided by the Public Health Engineering Department, Kohima. Empowered with the knowledge and skills to test water quality, she initiated a clean water project in her village. With the help of the water quality team, Melevinu routinely tests the water sources and educates her community about the importance of clean water. She empowered Anganwadi workers and other SHG workers to conduct the tests and strengthened the timely testing ensuring that the tests are being conducted on a monthly basis. Her efforts have led to improved water quality and reduced waterborne diseases in her village. Nagaland is prone to heavy rainfalls and landslides, which often disrupt water sources and compromise water quality. During such times, women like Melevinu have been crucial in ensuring the safety of the water supply. Her persistent efforts of repeatedly checking the quality of water, at source and delivery points has averted many seasonal diarrheal diseases that were prevalent during the monsoon season due to bacteriological contamination. Using field testing kits (FTKs), which can quickly assess various parameters such as pH, turbidity, total hardness, chloride, iron, nitrate, etc., they provide rapid on-site results and timely grievance redressal.

Fig 13: Imparting training to an Anganwadi worker | Source: PHED, Nagaland

The inspiring work of women like Melevinu highlights the crucial need to empower local communities with the tools and knowledge for effective water management, particularly in disaster-prone areas. By equipping women with skills in water surveillance and quality testing, we can ensure that communities are better prepared to manage their water resources during and after natural disasters. This empowerment not only enhances the immediate response to water-related challenges but also fosters long-term resilience. As women like Melevinu continue to lead these initiatives, their communities benefit from improved health outcomes, reduced incidence of waterborne diseases, and a stronger capacity to withstand future crises. By continuing to support and train women in water management, we can build more resilient communities that are capable of facing the challenges posed by natural disasters, ultimately ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of their populations.

"SUJAL SWASTHYA DHARANI": An initiative by JJM Assam in collaboration with NHM Assam on Community Engagement involving the "ASHA"

(Minimize water-related disasters by supply of clean drinking water)

- **Shri Biraj Baruah,** Deputy Mission Director, JJM Assam

At the outset, it is well established that contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to the transmission of various diseases such as Cholera, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio, etc. Safer drinking water sources mean less expenditure on health, as people are less likely to fall ill and incur medical expenses and are thereby able to remain economically productive. Also, as children are particularly at risk from water-related diseases, access to improved sources of drinking water can result in better health and therefore better school attendance and positive longer-term consequences for their lives.

The Jal Jeevan Mission also focuses on the importance of Safe and Proper Sanitation and Hygiene practices. A major component under SBM-G Phase 2 is Grey Water Management which includes maintaining cleanliness in and around drinking water sources. Since Assam is blessed with abundant water supply, therefore, it is quite difficult to make people understand the importance of judicious use of the precious resource. They see it all over therefore find it difficult to believe that it is limited, and the water sources may dry up very soon.

On the other hand, the contribution of **ASHAs** in increasing the communities' trust in the **public health systems** has been phenomenal, thereby, emerging as a pillar of the health system during crisis. This has been most evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, since ASHA workers regularly communicate with the rural communities on various issues of preventive, promotive and curative health via **house visits** and **meetings,** these also act as platforms for discussing the issues of Safe Drinking Water. Keeping this fact in view, the convergence between JJM-Assam and NHM-Assam was implemented so that ASHAs can counsel women, families, adolescents and other folks on the **importance of Safe Drinking Water** and also motivate them to construct the **Platform and Soak pit** around their Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) which would in-turn help in Grey-Water Management.

Fig 14: ASHA workers in a meeting | Source: PHED, Assam

The key highlights of the programme are:

1. Community Mobilization through ASHA:

ASHAs are utilizing the below meetings to discuss and create awareness on various topics related to Water and Health in addition to their regular NHM mandates:

a. Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND)

b. Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC)

c. Jan Aarogya Samiti (JAS)

2. Improve Overall Public Health standards by ensuring proper WASH practices:

In this regard, ASHAs are provided with Health Cards that are designed in a manner which includes a list of 24 topics to be discussed in the VHSND, VHSNC and JAS meetings. These topics are completely health oriented wherein focus is drawn on how potable drinking water provided by JJM plays a crucial role. Also, content on Grey-Water Management is included in these Health Cards.

3. Preventing health and measures for sustainability:

ASHAs act as Motivator for the community, who promote the idea of construction of Soak pits and Platforms as a preventive health measure. They motivate communities to adopt these safe practices as part of their health and hygiene routines. The implementation of Soak pits and Platforms can significantly contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals by ensuring clean water and sanitation, creating resilient infrastructure and supporting climate adaptation efforts.

4. Innovation Communication Strategies:

As ASHAs are preoccupied with their other vertical works, therefore, **customised videos** have been developed on every topic which may be discussed in the meetings with the community. The health cards contain a **QR code** which can be scanned for the tutorial video.

5. Use of technology (Mobile Apps and Digital Platforms):

In order to make the program more efficient and transparent, a **Mobile app** has been developed wherein ASHA's can map a scheme and record the number of meetings held, detail out the status of Soakpit/ Platform construction, etc. It also, enables the ASHA Supervisor to approve the activities undertaken by the ASHA workers.

Impact:

1. Cost Effectiveness:

Involving ASHAs and using their community reach to advantage, has resulted in reduced administrative costs. No additional expenditure is incurred in holding separate meetings with the community. Additionally, when the ASHAs speak on topics such as **awareness on Arsenicosis and Flourosis**, **Menstrual Hygiene and WASH**, they are in-turn motivating the people to undertake activities to reduce incidences of waterborne diseases thereby helping communities lessen their expenditure on healthcare.

2. Scalability

ASHAs are grassroot health workers who have over the years established tremendous trust within their communities. They can deliver personalized messages right to household level, ensuring that the information about JJM is culturally relevant and easily understood across a wide audience, including marginalized groups. It has been observed that in the month of **February 2024 to May 2024** a total of **3,39,255 meetings were conducted** across the State with a Target achievement of **97%.**

3. Improved Health Outcomes:

Increased access to safe drinking water and better hygiene practices promoted by ASHAs can lead to a reduction in water-borne diseases, thereby, **improving overall public health**. ASHAs educate communities about the importance of safe drinking water and the health benefits from consumption of potable water supplied under 'Har Ghar Jal' programme of the government. Piped water infrastructure can help communities become resilient against natural disasters. For instance, having secure and clean water sources can be crucial during floods or droughts, providing a stable supply of water when natural sources might be contaminated or dry.

4. Soak Pits and Platforms Build up:

Constructions of Soak Pits and Platforms is an effective measure for Greywater Management which reduces groundwater contamination, promotes recycling and minimizes waterborne diseases by improving sanitation. ASHAs made a sustainable start of motivating the community to build soak pits and platforms.

Conclusion

The key focus area for ASHA pertaining to drinking water are awareness is importance on safe drinking water, awareness on vector borne & water borne diseases, need for construction of soak pit & platform and the role of community in sustainability of piped water supply system (PWSS). Although these issues are addressed by Implementation Support Agencies (ISA), women group members, Jal Mitras, Jaldoots and Water Users Committees as well but ASHAs under NHM are engaged as they have access to a wider spectrum of community and cater to and hold general trust of the rural population on issues related to health and sanitation.

केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संगठन)
CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Organisation Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

CBSE/ACAD/DS(MS)/2024

Date: 16.04.2024
Circular No: Acad-38/2024

All the Heads of Schools Affiliated to CBSE

Subject: '*Jal Doot*' Program under *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*: Catch the Rain Campaign – reg.

Dear Principal

'*Jal Shakti Abhiyan*: Catch the Rain' Campaign was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22.03.2021. The campaign focuses on rainwater harvesting, water conservation, enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation, setting up *Jal Shakti Kendras* in all districts, intensive afforestation and awareness generation. The students represent the most dynamic and influential segment of the community, capable of driving significant social and environmental change.

Jal Jeevan Mission, Assam has pioneered an initiative namely '*Jal Doot*' program for recognizing the role of students in the arena of water conservation. Under the program, students of classes VIII to XII called '*Jal Doots*', play a crucial role in its execution and outreach. The program aims at creating Student Champions who will provide an assessment of Piped Water Supply Schemes in their locality among other activities like ambassadors of Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, Water Conservation etc.

It has now been decided to extend the idea of the *Jal Doot* program across India's diverse landscapes to reap manifold increase in its benefits. This nationwide movement could significantly bolster India's efforts towards sustainable water use, environmental conservation, climate resilience and involving young minds (*Jal Doots)* in *Jan Andolan* for fresh idea and youthful energy.

In view of above, activities pertaining to *Jal Doot* program may be undertaken by the schools. Concept note of the *Jal Doot* program is attached for reference. The schools should upload a brief report of the activities of *Jal Doot* program at the following link:

https://forms.gle/Erk1dVe35dyoQKFt8

You are requested to disseminate the above information among the students and teachers of your school and encourage the students to participate in the *Jal Doot* program.

With Best Wishes,

Dr. Joseph Emmanuel
Director (Academics)

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Best Practices in Coping with Water-Related Disasters in Andhra Pradesh

- **PHED**, Andhra Pradesh

Introduction:

Andhra Pradesh faces diverse water-related challenges, from intense heatwaves to monsoon-induced floods and heavy rains. This article highlights the best practices implemented in the State to combat these issues.

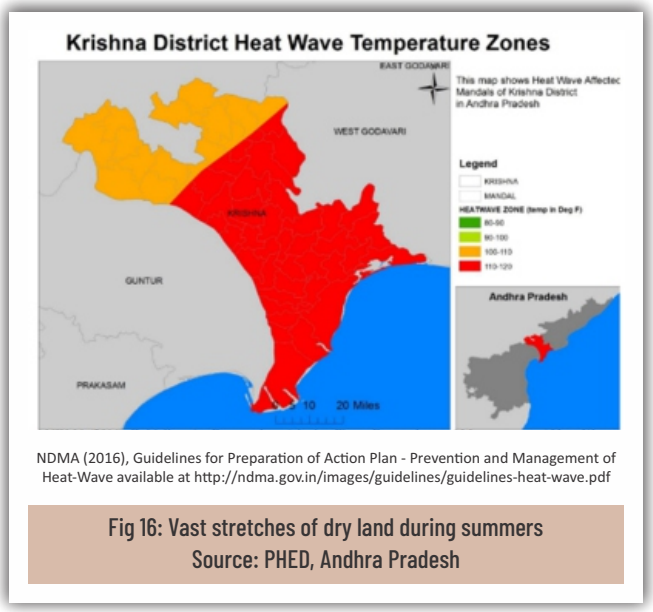
Combating Water Stress During Heatwaves in Andhra Pradesh

Heatwaves in Andhra Pradesh have become increasingly severe, with temperatures often soaring above 45°C. The impact of these extreme temperatures has been profound, causing significant hardships for the people:

High Temperatures and Their Impact:

- **Record Temperatures:** In May 2024, the city of Vijayawada recorded temperatures as high as 47°C. Such extreme heat has led to increased cases of heatstroke, dehydration, and other heat-related illnesses.
- **Water Scarcity:** The intense heat has caused water sources to dry up, leading to acute water shortages in both urban and rural areas. Residents have had to travel long distances to access potable water.

Fig 15: Vast stretches of dry land during summers
Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh



NDMA (2016), Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan - Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave available at http://ndma.gov.in/images/guidelines/guidelines-heat-wave.pdf

Fig 16: Vast stretches of dry land during summers
Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

Struggles of the People:

- **Agricultural Distress:** Farmers have faced crop failures due to the lack of adequate water for irrigation. This has not only affected their livelihoods but also the food supply in the region.
- **Health Challenges:** The extreme heat has put additional strain on healthcare facilities, with an increase in patients suffering from heat-related ailments.
- **Daily Life Disruptions:** Frequent power cuts, due to the high demand for electricity to run cooling devices, have further exacerbated the difficulties faced by the people.

Innovative Water Conservation Techniques:

- **Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting:**
  - **Guntur District:** The installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in 5,000 schools and households has significantly increased water availability. These systems collect and store rainwater, providing a crucial water source during dry periods.

- **Impact:** This initiative has not only ensured a steady water supply but also reduced the dependency on groundwater, which is often over-extracted during heatwaves.

- **Water Recycling and Reuse:**
  - **Nellore:** Implementation of greywater recycling systems in 3,000 Houses allows the reuse of water from showers, sinks, and washing machines for irrigation and toilet flushing.
  - **Location**: In the villages of Jonnawada, Kalayakagallu, Sri Rangaraja Puram, Minaballu, Isakapalem (Buchireddypalem Mandal), Davispeta, Pallipadu, Koruturu (Indukurpeta Mandal), and Maneguntapadu (Kadavaluru Mandal), two grey water management systems have been implemented. These systems include raising kitchen gardens and digging soak pits in Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Backward Community (BC) colony houses. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Implementing Support Agency (ISA) team planted fruit trees such as guava, Indian gooseberry, moringa, and various vegetable plants in these gardens to improve the health of the rural poor and reduce the risk of anemia. Approximately 72,000 liters of grey water is utilized daily to sustain these kitchen gardens, benefiting ten villages in three mandals of the Kovur sub-division.

Fig 17: Tree plantation activity | Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

  - **Impact:** This has reduced the overall water demand and conserved fresh water for essential uses.

- **Micro-Irrigation Systems:**
  - **Kadapa District:** The introduction of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems on 10,000 hectares has optimized water use in agriculture. These systems deliver water directly to the plant roots, minimizing evaporation and runoff.
  - **Impact:** Farmers have reported increased crop yields by 15% and reduced water consumption by 30%, making agriculture more sustainable even during extreme heat.

- **Community-Based Water Management:**
  - **Village of Rayadurgam:** A community-driven water rationing system ensures equitable distribution of water during peak summer. Households receive a fixed amount of water daily to prevent shortages.
  - **Impact:** This approach has fostered a sense of collective responsibility and ensured that all residents have access to water.

Countering Floods and Heavy Rains During Monsoon in Andhra Pradesh:

Monsoon season in Andhra Pradesh often brings heavy rains, leading to floods and landslides. In 2023, the state witnessed unprecedented rainfall, with districts like East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, and Guntur being severely affected. Various best practices have been adopted to mitigate these impacts:

Flood Management Strategies:

- **Godavari River Basin:** Construction of 50 check dams and flood barriers has helped manage river overflow, protecting 100 nearby villages from flooding.
- **Impact:** These measures have reduced the flood-affected area by 40%, safeguarding homes, farmland, and infrastructure.

Community Preparedness:

- **Village of Kakinada:** Regular community training programs on emergency response and flood evacuation plans have been conducted, ensuring residents are prepared for potential floods.
- **Impact:** With 70% of the population trained in flood response, there has been a significant reduction in casualties and property damage.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- **Vishakhapatnam:** Upgrading drainage systems to handle increased water flow during heavy rains has significantly reduced urban flooding.
- **Impact:** The frequency of urban flooding incidents has decreased by 60%, minimizing disruption to daily life and economic activities.

Public Impact:

- **Displacement and Losses:** Over 200,000 people were temporarily displaced due to flooding, with significant losses to homes and crops.
- **Health Risks:** Stagnant water and poor sanitation during floods led to an increase in waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

JJM Efforts and Impact:

- **Water Purification Systems:** Deployment of mobile water purification units in flood-hit areas provided safe drinking water to over 500,000 people.
- **Sanitation Campaigns:** Intensive hygiene and sanitation campaigns post-floods helped reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases by 50%.

Monsoon-Ready Initiatives

Being monsoon-ready involves proactive measures to ensure infrastructure can handle the increased water volume and prevent contamination:

Cleaning of Water Tanks and Drains:

- **Chittoor District:** Annual cleaning drives of water tanks and drains before the onset of the monsoon have prevented waterborne diseases and maintained water quality.
- **Impact:** Over 10,000 tanks and drains have been cleaned, benefiting approximately 1.5 million people.

Repair and Maintenance of Water Infrastructure:

- **Anantapur:** Regular inspections and prompt repairs of 5,000 kilometers of pipelines and 500 reservoirs have ensured uninterrupted water supply even during heavy rains.
- **Impact:** These measures have minimized disruptions and ensured a steady water supply to over 2 million residents.

STOP DIARRHOEA Campaign:

Diarrhoea is a major public health concern in Andhra Pradesh, especially during the monsoon season when waterborne diseases are prevalent. The STOP DIARRHEA campaign, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, has undertaken various activities to combat this issue:

Awareness Campaigns:

- **Statewide IEC Activities:** Intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns have been conducted across the state to raise awareness about the prevention and management of diarrhea. These campaigns have reached over 3 million people through workshops, pamphlets, and media broadcasts.
- **Impact:** Increased community knowledge about hygiene practices, water purification methods, and the importance of using clean water.

Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives:

- **Community Sanitation Drives:** Organized in 500 villages to clean public spaces, drains, and water sources. These drives have mobilized over 100,000 volunteers.
- **Impact:** Significant reduction in the breeding grounds for disease-causing pathogens, resulting in a 40% decrease in diarrhoea cases in affected areas.

Access to Safe Drinking Water:

- **Installation of Chlorination Units:** Over 2,000 chlorination units have been installed in rural water supply systems to ensure safe drinking water.
- **Impact:** Reduction in waterborne diseases, with a reported 30% decrease in diarrhoea cases in areas with newly installed units.

Medical Interventions:

- **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) Centers:** Established in 300 primary health centers across the state, providing free ORT sachets and medical advice to affected individuals.
- **Impact:** Improved health outcomes for over 50,000 children who received timely treatment for diarrhoea.

Lessons from the Past

The Jal Jeevan Mission has learned valuable lessons from past experiences, helping to refine its strategies for disaster management and water conservation:

- **Community Involvement:** Active participation of local communities has been crucial in ensuring the success of water management initiatives. Past experiences have shown that involving community members in planning and implementation leads to more sustainable outcomes.
- **Technology Integration:** Use of advanced technologies, such as GIS mapping for water resources and mobile applications for real-time monitoring, has significantly improved the efficiency of water management practices.

- **Continuous Monitoring:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of water quality and infrastructure have enabled timely interventions, reducing the impact of water-related disasters.

Water Testing by Lab Technicians Pre and Post Monsoon:

Ensuring water quality is a critical aspect of the Jal Jeevan Mission, especially during and after the monsoon season when contamination risks are high:

Bacteriological and Chemical Testing:

- **Extensive Testing:** In 2023, lab technicians conducted over 50,000 water quality tests across various districts before and after the monsoon.
- **Impact:** Identified and addressed contamination issues in 3,000 water sources, ensuring safe drinking water for approximately 2 million people.

Deployment of Mobile Testing Units:

- **Rapid Response:** Mobile testing units were deployed in flood-affected areas, allowing for quick detection and mitigation of contamination.
- **Impact:** Reduced the spread of waterborne diseases by providing timely information and interventions.

Women Water Surveillance:

Women have played a pivotal role in water surveillance and quality assurance under the Jal Jeevan Mission:

Training and Empowerment:

- **5,000 Women Trained:** Women from various villages have been trained to test water quality at sources and delivery points using Field Test Kits (FTKs).
- **Impact:** Empowered women have become key stakeholders in ensuring water safety, leading to improved community health outcomes.

Community-Based Water Monitoring:

- **Regular Testing:** Trained women conduct regular water quality tests, reporting any issues to local authorities for prompt action.
- **Impact:** Enhanced community vigilance and quicker response to potential contamination, reducing the incidence of waterborne diseases by 20%.

Conclusion:

Andhra Pradesh's proactive measures in combating heatwaves, managing monsoon challenges, and addressing public health concerns like diarrhea serve as exemplary models for other regions facing similar issues. The Jal Jeevan Mission's emphasis on innovative practices, community involvement, and infrastructure improvements has significantly bolstered the state's resilience to water-related disasters. By learning from these best practices, other regions can enhance their own strategies for water security and disaster preparedness.

Shri Priyatu Mandal appointed as Director & Head of SPM-NIWAS, Kolkata

Shri Priyatu Mandal, IAS Himachal Pradesh Cadre of 2006 batch is appointed as Director & Head of the Institute at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), Kolkata under the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti on 18th July 2024. Earlier he served as the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj in Government of Himachal Pradesh. He also held charge as Divisional Commissioner, Shimla Division.

SWSM, UP Installs 3,000 Water Stalls across Districts to Combat Heat Waves

- **Charu Shukla,** State Consultant, State Water and Sanitation Mission, Uttar Pradesh

Heat waves in May and June this year have become increasingly common and severe, posing significant risks to public health. Recognizing the urgent need for immediate interventions during such extreme weather conditions, State Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed the State Water and Sanitation Mission Department to start Jal Seva Kendra (water stalls) in all the cities.

In an effort to mitigate the adverse effects of heat waves and ensure the well-being of citizens, SWSM, has established more than 3,000 Jal Sewa Kendra (water stalls) across various districts. This proactive measure aims to provide immediate relief and continuous access to safe drinking water in times of extreme heat, demonstrating a significant step towards safeguarding public health and enhancing the resilience of communities.

These 3,000 water stalls have been strategically placed near the city's hospitals, railway stations, bus stands, markets, temples, and religious places. Each stall is equipped with facilities to store and dispense clean drinking water, ensuring that it remains accessible throughout the peak heat wave periods. This service of providing cold drinking water to everyone was completely free, and the entire expense was borne by the NGOs, companies, and agencies associated with the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The success of these water stalls also hinges on active community participation and awareness campaigns. Local authorities and community leaders were engaged in promoting the use of these water stalls, educating people about the importance of staying hydrated, during extreme heat conditions.

By providing a reliable source of drinking water during heat waves, the State Water and Sanitation Mission not only addressed immediate water needs but also educated the community on water safety and security. This initiative exemplifies a holistic approach to preparedness, community health, and sustainability.

The establishment of 3,000 water stalls during heat waves was an innovative step towards ensuring public health and water awareness. It highlighted the department's commitment to address climate-induced challenges and underscores the importance of accessible clean drinking water as a fundamental right.

Fig 18: Matkas with cold water to quench the thirst of passersby during extreme summer months | Source: JMC construction Company, Mahoba

Fig 19: Matkas with cold water to quench the thirst of passers by during extreme summer months | Source: JMC construction Company, Mahoba

Fig 20: Water stalls giving relief to the people from heat | Source: Subhash Education Society (Training agency, Lucknow)

Assam's *Jal Doots*: Champions of Safe and Sustainable Water Initiatives

- **Kailash Karthik N**, IAS, Mission Director, JJM, Govt. of Assam

On a sunny morning in February, Abhijit Patar, a ninth-grade student from Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam, was cycling around his neighborhood. He noticed his uncle, a 55-year-old man, washing his motorbike with water from a newly installed piped connection in the front yard of his house. Realizing the misuse, Patar immediately parked his cycle on the side and requested his uncle to stop using water from the tap which is supplied as drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission to rural households.

"This water is only for drinking and cooking, uncle. Don't waste it washing clothes, vehicles, or cattle, watering plants or in the paddy field. The government is providing 55 liters of water per day so that get adequate safe drinking water to stay healthy," he said.

Patar is one of around 2.5 lakh students in Assam who are trained as *Jal Doots* (Water Champions), a unique initiative in Assam under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The objective of is to engage school students and sensitize them on key messages pertaining to importance of safe, sustainable drinking water sources and building a sense of community ownership around water provided by the mission. *Jal Doots* act as community-level volunteers who carry out the functionality and impact assessment of the household Tap Connections.

These students are provided two-day training under 7,000 *Jal Shalas*, which covers topics such as water conservation, WASH, water quality, water supply schemes, community participation followed by community interactions to understand the status of Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS). The first Jal Shala was formally introduced in Assam on 19th May 2023. In Morigaon district, a total of 488 *Jal Doots* from 12 schools are working closely with the mission.

India, with the 1.4 billion population, remains one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. With a history of water scarcity, drought, and waterborne diseases, India owns only 4% of the world's total fresh water. As per a report of the United Nations Children's Fund, about two-thirds of the 718 districts of India face depletion of groundwater.

To address the problem of safe drinking water within the household,

Fig 21: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

Fig 22: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in 2019, implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Jal Doots are working hard to make the mission a huge success in the state. The mission in Assam is being implemented as a 'bottom-up' decentralized approach with active involvement of the Gaon Panchayats and rural communities "to plan, implement, manage, own, operate, and maintain their in-village water supply systems."

"Earlier, the people in my village had no understanding on water safety and conservation. They never felt the check the quality of water they are consuming and if it is safe for drinking. They never thought that water had minerals," said Patar.

Before the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission, the main source of drinking water for the rural communities in Morigaon were Tube wells and wells. During heavy rain and floods, these wells either get contaminated or submerged or erode with the rising water of the Brahmaputra leading to severe health implications as people were forced to consume contaminated water.

As per the report of the National Institute of Health, around 37.7 million Indians are affected by waterborne diseases annually. Among them, 1.5 million children are estimated to die of diarrhea alone, and 73 million working days are lost due to waterborne disease each year.

"Diseases like diarrhoea are very common, especially in rural areas among children. But people never thought consuming unsafe drinking water many a times leads to water borne diseases adversely impacting child's health," Patar added.

However, things have started to roll within the community by awareness initiatives of *Jal Doots* in Assam. Since the introduction of *Jal Doots*, rural communities have shown a new-found interest in understanding the quality of the water they use.

Mohidul Islam, the District Coordinator of Jal Jeevan Mission in Morigaon district, has been actively mobilizing the *Jal Doots* by organizing training programs and awareness camps in the villages. Apart from sensitizing the people about the necessity of drinking safe water and sustainability, *Jal Doots* are also instrumental in instilling awareness around WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene).

"The *Jal Doots* are also teaching simple yet ignored hygiene practices like proper ways of hand washing, keeping the water source clean, and installing it at least 30-ft away from the toilet. People are now aware. Many *Jal Doots* are training people on use of Field-Testing Kit (FTK) for water. The villagers are enthusiastic and regular conducts test of water."

17 km away from Morigaon Town, in Tarabori High School, Nabajyoti Patar studies, 40 students have been trained since October 2023 to act as *Jal Doots*. Patar and Nabajyoti Saikia, another *Jal Doot* from the same school, were also awarded in the District Commissioner's Office, Morigaon, for their exceptional community work.

Apalaka Devi, the Nodal Point of Contact, a science teacher of Tarabori High School for the JJM in the school, said, "During the training session, we first tested the water supply source in our school and showed it to the students. Those who could not get trained during the session were later trained by *Jal Doots*. These students have gone door-to-door informing people how new pipe connections are to be installed and maintained

under JJM. It is important that the water supplied is used judiciously."

Mohidul Islam, the district coordinator, has also stated that apart from monitoring the progress of the mission and coordinating with various stakeholders, he also takes sessions in the *Jal Shalas* through educational videos on water safety and security. "We have also organized street plays in various schools in Morigaon to raise awareness about water. We will be training students of another 16 schools as Jal Doots. Very soon, there will be over 1,000 *Jal Doots* in Morigaon," said Mohidul Islam.

In another district of Lakhimpur, around 1,200 *Jal Doots* are trained as community volunteers. They are creating awareness about '*Har Ghar Jal*' and Jal Jeevan Mission. The district that faces extreme floods during the monsoon season and drought during the winters is now protected by a public water supply scheme (PWSS). According to Chatra Prasad Pathori, the district coordinator of Lakhimpur district, more than 80% of the rural population have so far been covered under JJM.

"In our district, JJM is having very good progress, and a major part of the success goes to the *Jal Doots*. The *Jal Doots* are visiting the piped water supply system to check its operations. They also interact with the *Jal Mitras* (individuals responsible for maintenance of the PWSS) on issues and functionalities of the schemes. They undertake door-to-door visits to check compliances, and if there is any issue pertaining to water quality. The *Jal Doots* work closely with the surveillance committee women group.

However, the journey of JJM has not easy in the district as the work had to be stopped multiple times during floods. It led to the urgency of working at speed during summers to avoid the delay in monsoon period. Due to the presence of hard rocks in many villages, alongside the highways, alternative machinery for drilling was being used.

"The Odex machine that is generally used in drilling does not work in many areas for deep welling which has hard stones. So, the mechanism systems have changed to Rotary drilling machine especially in areas alongside the Lakhimpur-Dhemaji.

Fig 23: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

The fluctuating chemical parameter in water makes it mandatory to conduct frequent water tests. Here the role of the *Jal Doots* becomes more significant.

"The iron level is high in the region coupled with low TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) which is prone to fluctuation. This adds additional challenge as JJM is not just limited to provisioning groundwater but also ensure that the water provided is as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). JJM believes in equity. Today every rural household irrespective of its social status, caste every home gets regular supply of prescribed quality water @55 lpcd," he added.

According to Pathori, the *Jal Doots* are organizing massive community awareness drives. They educate people on the need to check the water quality and the possible health challenges they might face in the absence of it.

In Roumoria village, in Bihpuria town, 40 km away from Lakhimpur district headquarters, 15-year-old Saranga Saikia, a ninth-grade student of Khora Higher Secondary School, has been conferred with the "Best performing *Jal Doot*" award in a district-level *Jal Doot* meet under JJM in 2023.

"We first attended a *Jal Shala* in September last year, in Bongalmora Higher Secondary School where training was provided on the role of *Jal Doots* as community volunteers." said Saranga Saikia.

While Saranga's village is yet to be covered under the mission, he has started sensitizing the rural population in the nearby villages on water safety and sustainability.

"The very first challenge was to make the villagers understand why they need an additional water pipe connection under JJM. The villagers were used to drinking water from

Fig 24: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

wells, and there was no shortage of water as such. When I along with other *Jal Doots* made them understand that the water provided under JJM is standard drinking water all across the country, they started to support the scheme. Now they are much more aware," the *Jal Doot* added.

The river island of Majuli is one of the water-stressed districts of Assam. Surrounded by river Brahmaputra, Majuli often faces water contamination due to multiple floods in a year. Scarcity of drinking water during the floods becomes a major health hazard on the island. The marooned people used to resort to contaminated pond water in the absence of an adequate public drinking water supply system prior to JJM.

Of late, the district has seen significant progress in terms of JJM. According to Alakesh Gogoi, the district coordinator of Information, Education, and Coordination, there is visible change in community participation due to the intensive campaign organized by the *Jal Doots*.

"In our district, around 200 *Jal Doots* are engaged to sensitize the people of the villages who have got the pipe water connections under JJM. They are doing

amazing work in terms of sensitization around water safety and security. These *Jal Doots* have made the people aware of the benefits of drinking safe water delivered from the PWSS. Those villagers who were initially not willing to install a tap connection of JJM and pay the meager fee that comes with it have now understood the importance of the mission and become very supportive," Gogoi said.

35 km away from the district headquarters of Majuli, Bina Milli, a 36-year-old woman, lives in Ujoni Jakaibowa village. Milli, who used to drink pond water, is now very happy getting a piped water connection.

"The *Jal Doots* came here and asked us to use the water only for drinking. They taught us not to use the water in agriculture and for purposes other than drinking," she said.

The *Jal Doots*, apart from sensitizing the community, are also passing on the knowledge that they acquire from training sessions of JJM to other students of the community who are yet to undertake the sessions.

Seema Bora, an eighth grader of Raunapar Model Higher Secondary School, of Majuli, said, "We never knew so many facts about water, we for the first time learnt that water contains essential minerals and that it can be contaminated. But after receiving training from JJM, we have learnt water testing water and can easily identify faulty connections or those contaminated due to various reasons."

According to Seema, there is a noticeable behavioral change among the communities around water. The public is aware of drinking quality water and its sustainability.

"After getting the water supply connections, many people were wasting water, they left the water flow even when not in use. We approached these people and sensitized them on how life depended on this limited natural resource and water wastage was a complete NO. We explained to them the issue related to water scarcity if there was no change in the behavior," she added.

Jal Doots in Majuli even reached out to the officials of Jal Jeevan Mission and shared the list of households which were left without tap water connections.

Arnav Kumar Baruah, Assistant Mission Director (AMD) at Jal Jeevan Mission in Assam stressed that the *Jal Doot's* role is crucial in attaining the objective of the mission of providing clean and safe drinking water i.e. *Har Ghar Jal* in the long-run, thus epitomizing grassroots involvement in nation-building.

The *Jal Doot* programme in Assam fosters *Jan Bhagidari* by engaging students as ambassadors in water conservation. Through comprehensive training, they have become champions of water quality and hygiene and help in assessing piped water supply schemes and promoting safe practices. Leveraging innovative tools like WhatsApp ChatBot, they inspire communities to adopt sustainable water practices.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been playing an integral role in advancing the *Jal Doot* programme. It has been serving as an independent third-party evaluator and providing support in the planning, reviewing and monitoring its activities. Furthermore, participation in the *Jal Doot* programme goes beyond simple assessment. With active community engagement and partnership with local stakeholders, they unearth and highlight success stories from grassroot. These anecdotes work as compelling testimonials, eloquently demonstrating the positive impact of the programme on individuals, families, and communities alike.

For exceptional commitment and dedication to implement solutions that address water scarcity, pollution, and access challenges, *Jal Doot* programme won the "Outstanding State Level Water Management Initiative – Commendable" category at the Water Digest World Water Awards 2023-2024 held in New Delhi on 5th February 2024.

Fig 25: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

जल जीवन मिशन : सफलता की कहानी
गांव- गांव में दस्तक दे रहा डायरिया रोकथाम अभियान

- काजल शर्मा, आई ई सी कोऑर्डिनेटर - दुर्ग, **शिव नारायण त्रिपाठी ,** प्रोजेक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर - जांजगीर चापा,
मनोज कुमार राठौर , आई ई सी कोऑर्डिनेटर - बलौदा बाजार छत्तीसगढ़

वर्षा ऋतु प्रारम्भ होते ही जन जनित बीमारियो के होने की आशंका बढ़ जाती है . उलटी दस्त की शिकायत अधिक होने लगती है . कभी- कभी यह बीमारियां जान लेवा भी हो सकती है . सरकार इन मौसमी बीमारियों की रोकथाम के लिए समय-समय पर अभियान भी चलाती है . सावधानी से बचाव का सबसे बढ़िया उपाय है, जिसमे किसी भी संभावित खतरे की आशंका को पहले से ही एहतियाती कदम उठा कर कम किया जा सकता है .

सरकार द्वारा मानसून की दस्तक के साथ स्टॉप डायरिया कैंपेन के तहत गांव गांव में विभिन्न गतिविधियो का आयोजन किया जा रहा है . यह कैंपेन १ जुलाई से ३१ अगस्त २०२४ तक आयोजित किया जायेगा .

ज़िला जांजगीर चापा में कलेक्टर श्री आकाश छिकारा के निर्देशन में डायरिया रोकथाम हेतु ज़िला पंचायत जनपद पंचायत स्वस्थ्य विभाग द्वारा कुए/ जल स्रोतों की साफ़ सफाई एवं संक्रमण के रोकथाम हेतु हैंड पम्पो में क्लोरीनेशन कराया जा रहा है> लोगो को डायरिया होने के कारणो, संक्रमण व् उससे बचाव के बारे में आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकरता व् उसकी सहायिका द्वारा जानकारी उपलब्ध कराई जा है .

ज़िले के विकास खंड बलौदा के अंतर्गत ग्राम पंचायत करमंदा में भी डायरिया की रोकथाम हेतु हैंड पम्पो मे रीनेशन कराया गया है. स्वस्थ्य विभाग द्वारा ओ . आर. एस पैकेट एवं जिंक की गोली का वितरण किया गया साथ ही लोगो को साफ़-सफाई से रहने और स्वच्छ पानी का उपयोग करने की सलाह दी गई . जल स्रोतों का एफ. टी. के. के माध्यम से जल परिक्षण किया जा रहा है . लोगो को साफ़ सफाई से रहने व् हाथ धोने के बारे में बताया जा रहा है . बलौदा बाज़ार ज़िले के अंतर्गत कलेक्टर महोदय के निर्देशानुसार वर्षा ऋतु प्रारम्भ होते ही बिमारियों की रोकथाम के लिए शासन द्वारा अभियान चलाया जा रहा है .

ज़िले के विकास खंड बलौदा बाज़ार अंतर्गत ग्राम पंचायत तुरम में डायरिया रोकथाम हेतु नाली निर्माण कराया गया ताकि दूषित पानी को घरों तक पहुंचने से रोका जा सके . पाइप लाइन में हो रही टूट-फूट का भी निर्माण किया जा रहा है . ब्लीचिंग पाउडर का छिड़काव किया गया है , पानी की टंकी का सफाई कर के पुनः शुद्ध पयेजल समस्त ग्रामीणों के घर पहुंचाया जा रहा है . लोगो को ओ. आर. एस. का पैकेट एवं जिंक की गोली दी जा रही है . जल वाहिनियों द्वारा ग्राम में समस्त जल स्रोतों का एफ. टी. के. के माध्यम से जल परीक्षण किया जा रहा है .

ग्राम पंचायत मानिकचौरी दुर्ग ज़िले के विकास खंड पाटन के हाथ धोने के सही तरीके, आंगनवाड़ी व् स्कूलों में सिखाया जा रहा है ताकि डायरिया से बचा जा सके . स्वच्छता से रहने पर बीमारियों से खतरा कम हो सकता है .

इस कैंपेन से गांव में एक सकारात्मक बदलाव आया है . सभी लोग चाहे वो सरपंच, पानी समिति में कार्य कर रहे सादस्य, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता बड़े ही उत्साहपूर्वक स्टॉप डायरिया कैंपेन की गतिविधियों में संलग्न हैं .

Combating heatwave in West Bengal

- PHED West Bengal

West Bengal state has wide variations in temperature and geographical area, stretching from the delta in the coastal area to the high hills of the Himalayas. The state experiences heavy rainfall, monsoons, and cyclones and is endowed with 7.5 percent of the water resources of the country.

Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, on 15th August 2019 to connect every household with a functional household tap connection. Public Health Engineering Department, Government of West Bengal is reaching out to every household with water services along with sensitizing the community and end users to judiciously use this resource.

West Bengal has been facing the dual challenges of heatwaves and heavy rainfall leading to floods. To address these issues, a multi-faceted approach has been adopted by the implementation support agencies in 22 districts, involving community engagement, to generate mass awareness, address the impact of these natural calamities through regular inspection of the delivery pipeline for leakages and its prompt repair, especially after severe storms and uprooting of trees, and also sensitize public to raise the platform of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to enable users to collect safe water in flood prone areas.

Raising awareness in the community through the Jal Bachao Committee

One of the cornerstones of this initiative has been the active

Fig 26: Women taking the lead | Source: PHED, West Bengal

Fig 27: The water user committee proudly showing the water body in North 24 Parganas district
Source: PHED, West Bengal

involvement of the Jal Bachao Committee across the state, the members mostly women are also members of a close-knit network of Self-Help Groups. Meetings have been held with this committee, focusing on water conservation strategies, tree plantation drives, and promoting the maintenance of ponds through collective efforts. These meetings have spanned across the state ensuring that a wide geographical area is covered and that the communities most vulnerable to these natural events are involved.

In West Bengal, community-managed ponds have been instrumental in combating heat waves. These ponds, maintained through collective efforts, serve as crucial water sources and cooling agents. The surrounding greenery and biodiversity further enhance their effectiveness in mitigating heat effects. In rural Bengal, ponds play a significant role in the cultural and religious lives of the communities. They are often used for various ceremonial baths.

Traditional water conservation practices in rural Bengal referred to as "Paramparik Jol Bachao Parampara," reflect the region's deep-rooted cultural heritage and sustainable use of water resources. These practices, developed over centuries, are crucial for ensuring water availability, especially in the face of seasonal variations and climate challenges.

Pukur (Pond) Management

Ponds, locally known as "pukurs," are central to water conservation in rural Bengal. These ponds are ingeniously integrated into the community's daily life and agricultural practices.

- **Creation and Maintenance:** Villagers traditionally dig ponds to harvest rainwater. Regular maintenance, including desilting and cleaning, is carried out to ensure the ponds remain functional and free of pollutants.
- **Multiple Uses:** Ponds serve multiple purposes, including irrigation, fishing, domestic use, and livestock watering. This multifunctionality ensures the sustainability of water resources.

Rainwater Harvesting

Traditional rainwater harvesting techniques are employed to collect and store rainwater.

- **Rooftop Harvesting:** In some villages, rooftops are designed to channel rainwater into storage tanks or ponds, providing a reliable water source during dry periods.
- **Surface Collection:** Rainwater is collected from open spaces and directed into ponds or reservoirs.

Fig 28: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

Case Study

A headmistress harvests rainwater and recycles it to meet water demand in school

Students of Lalgarh Saradamoni Balika Vidyalaya (Higher Secondary), Jhargram faced enormous problems due to water scarcity. Keeping toilets and school premises clean was an issue, as only piped drinking water was available and the teachers did not want to waste the potable water in cleaning school premises.

Mrs. Swarnalata Bera, the headmistress planned, and gave shape to a rainwater harvesting system in the school. The rain that falls on the roof is channeled through pipes and collected in a reservoir. This water is used in toilets, gardening, and other work. Now, the school has been provided with piped water under Jal Jeevan Mission and the students now have safe and adequate water.

Fig 29: Rainwater is harvested and stored in the reservoir | Source: PHED, West Bengal

Mrs. Swarnalata Bera

"I have always wanted my students to be comfortable, but I knew this water crisis would increase during summer. I thought of creating a water source by harvesting rainwater harvesting. It took almost a year before everything was ready. It is currently the only school in the entire block that has this system with a storage capacity of 2500 liters. Water scarcity is addressed by conservation and re-usage of rainwater".

Interpersonal communication (IPC) and Door-to-Door Campaigns (DDC)

To further bolster community awareness and preparedness, inter personal communication (IPC) and door-to-door (DDC) campaigns aims to educate the public on the importance of water conservation, are the risks associated with heat waves and floods, and the measures that can be taken to mitigate these risks. The reach of these campaigns underscores the extensive effort to engage with every possible member of the community, ensuring that the message of preparedness and resilience is widespread.

School Awareness Programmes

Schools have been a focal point for spreading awareness among the younger generation. Students have reached with tailored awareness programs to educate students about the environmental challenges but also encourage them to take part in proactive measures. Rallies serve as a dynamic platform for students to express their commitment to environmental stewardship and to spread awareness among their peers and the wider community.

Tree Plantation Drives

Tree plantation has been identified as a key strategy in combating the adverse effects of heatwaves and floods. It has been reported by the ISA that a total of 2,980 trees in 2024 and 4017 trees have been planted in 2023 across habitations, both sides along the streets, khas land, village club centres, schools, colleges, ICDS centres, police stations, tea gardens, pump houses, divisional offices, block development office premises, Gram Panchayats, healthcare centres, laboratory, OHR site, water treatment plant, pump stations and Kumimari island (mangrove tree plantation)

These plantation sites have been chosen to maximize the benefits of increased green cover, which in turn will help reduce heat, improve air quality, and prevent soil erosion during heavy rains.

Fig 30: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

Special Drive: Conservation and Restoration of mangroves in Kumirmari island in North 24 Parganas.

Special drives have been taken up in North 24 District to increase mangrove coverage in Kumirmari island. Mangroves are valuable ecosystems that provide numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits.

Mangroves provide:

1. **Coastal Protection**: Mangroves act as natural barriers against storm surges, waves, and coastal erosion. Their dense root systems stabilize shorelines and reduce the impact of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tsunamis.

2. **Habitat and Biodiversity**: Mangroves are home to a diverse range of flora and fauna. They provide critical habitat for many species, including fish, birds, and invertebrates. Mangroves serve as nurseries for various marine species, supporting fisheries.

3. **Carbon Sequestration**: Mangroves are highly effective at sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They store carbon in their biomass and sediments, playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change.

4. **Water Quality**: Mangroves filter pollutants and sediments from water, improving water quality in coastal areas. They trap sediments and reduce the load of nutrients and contaminants entering the ocean.

Economic Importance

1. **Fisheries**: Mangroves support commercial and subsistence fisheries by providing breeding and feeding grounds for many fish and shellfish species. Healthy mangrove ecosystems contribute significantly to local and regional economies through fishing.

Social Importance

1. **Cultural Significance**: Mangroves hold cultural and spiritual value for many coastal communities. They are often integral to the traditions, folklore, and heritage of indigenous and local populations.

2. **Ccommunity Protection**: By reducing the impact of coastal hazards, mangroves protect coastal communities, reducing the loss of lives and property during extreme weather events.

The comprehensive approach taken by West Bengal to combat heatwaves and floods through community engagement, education, and proactive environmental measures highlights the state's commitment to building resilience against natural disasters. Through the combined efforts of the Jal Bachao Committee, school programs, and extensive tree plantation drives, West Bengal is paving the way for a safer and more sustainable future.

Fig 31: Students at a JJM asset in Tarabori village in Morigaon district of Assam
Source: PHED, Assam

Jal Jeevan Mission: A Lifeline in Assam's Flood of 2024

- **Shailika Sinha,** NJJM with input from the State

Water, water everywhere, with not a drop to drink! This is the picture that monsoons paint every year in the Northeastern state of Assam, where heavy floods turn lives upside down, and people in the flood-affected, low-lying regions struggle for basic needs.

This year, however, the state witnessed a notable change. Thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission and its transformative impact that provided a source of hope and optimism to the people.

Since its launch in 2019, JJM has brought about a paradigm shift, ensuring that even amidst adversity, clean and safe drinking water flows uninterrupted to the rural population of the country.

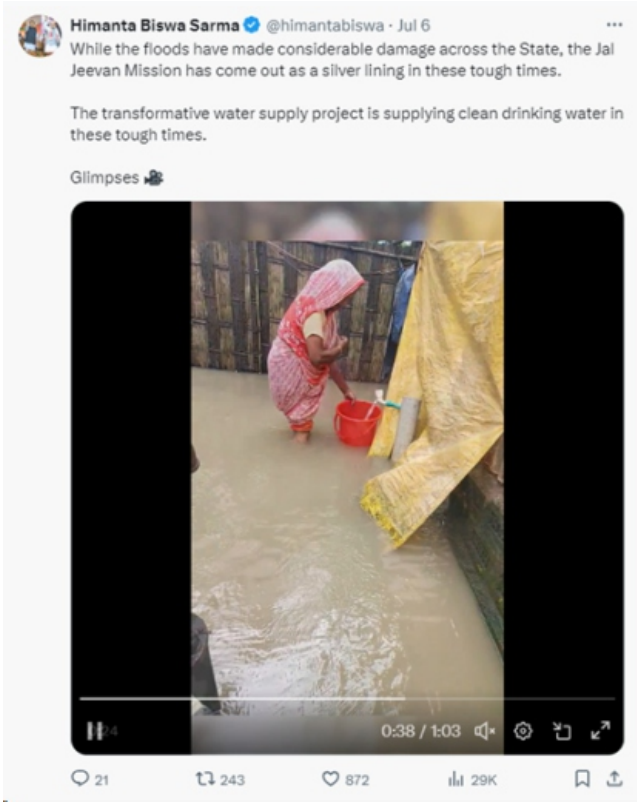
This year, when the floods engulfed several regions of Assam, turning bustling communities into vast expanses of water, one ray of hope stood resilient – Jal Jeevan Mission. Piped tap connections, now a common sight, proved to be a lifeline, providing a steady stream of hope and sustenance to the people.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, recently highlighted this fact on social media, praising the Central Government's mission for its monumental impact. His social media post, echoed through news channels and newspapers alike, praised JJM for its role in these trying times, calling it a silver lining in the dark clouds of natural calamity.

In just five years, Assam has seen a remarkable transformation. From a mere 1.55% coverage in 2019, the state now boasts a commendable 80.22% (as on 29th July 2024) coverage under JJM. Each household tap stands as a symbol of resilience and hope, especially in regions where the abundance of water often spells danger and contamination, rather than relief.

For Assam, a state where water is a double-edged sword, JJM has provided protection. The mission's focus on delivering clean, contamination-free drinking water has been nothing short of revolutionary. Families, who once faced the dire choice between thirst and illness, now have a reliable source of pure water, even in the midst of a flood. The mission has made significant strides in ensuring that marginalised communities, who are often the worst affected by natural disasters, receive equal attention and resources. By prioritising the installation of piped water connections in remote and underprivileged areas, JJM has played a crucial role in uplifting these communities.

The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission is felt in every drop that flows from these taps. It is more than just a programme; it is a promise kept, a life sustained, and a future secured. As the floodwaters recede, the stories of survival and hope, of compassion and foresight, enabled by JJM, will remain etched in the hearts of the people of Assam, ensuring that even when nature tests our limits, humanity's spirit of resilience and care flows strong, one tap at a time.



Hon'ble CM of Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma's Tweet
https://x.com/himantabiswa/status/1809451660504383698

Glimpses of JJM in Assam During the Floods of 2024

Fig 32: Sivasagar Division

Fig 33: Dhemaji Division

Services provided grom JJM schemes under Jorhat (PHE) sub-division at during floods

Name of Scheme	Nam Chuk PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Paschim Teok
FHTCs	113

Figure 34



Name of Scheme	Mokolani Missing PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Chintamoni Garh
FHTCs	56

Figure 35


Name of Scheme	Jelengitup Pathar PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Chinatmoni Garh
FHTCs	128

Figure 36

Name of Scheme	Bokora Miri PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Uttar Parbatia Janajati
FHTCs	236

Figure 37

Name of Scheme	Bonoria Missing PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Pub Teok
FHTCs	92

Figure 38

Name of Scheme	Sunari ati PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Pub Teok
FHTCs	104

Figure 39

Name of Scheme	Bonea Chuk PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Jhanjimukh
FHTCs	76

Figure 40

Name of Scheme	Arunamukh Chuk PWSS
Gram Panchayat	Pub Teok
FHTCs	118

Figure 41

Joint Advisory issued by DDWS and MoPR for holding Special Gram Sabha

- NJJM

A Joint Advisory has been issued by the Secretaries of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) on 1st July for holding Special Gram Sabha in the month of July.

The two flagship programmes of Government of India on water and sanitation: Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) and Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) has brought about a paradigm shift in the rural landscape of India. While SBM (G) was launched in 2014, Jal Jeevan Mission was announced on 15th August 2019 from the ramparts of the Red Fort. As of 1st July 2024, 14.91 Crore rural households (77.24%) are receiving potable water and 5.45 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus i.e. these villages have arrangement of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Liquid Waste Management (LWM). Both the SBM-G and HGJ programmes are rapidly heading towards making the villages Swachh Sujal.

Jal Jeevan Mission envisages Har Ghar Jal certification through Gram Sabha for all the villages where 100% tap water coverage is reported. It promotes community ownership of piped water supply system and confirmation from people about coverage, service levels and functionality of tap connection. The States of Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have declared themselves Har Gar Jal certified. The States of Gujarat and Mizoram are making significant progress towards becoming Har Ghar Jal certified States.

The work and pace of certification has to be increased as out of 2,24,999 villages reported Har Ghar Jal only 1,22,304 are Har Ghar Jal certified.

With regard to SBM (G) Phase II, out of 5,45,201 ODF Plus villages, 2,99,507 are ODF Plus Aspiring with arrangements for Liquid Waste Management and 2,03,188 villages are ODF Plus Model villages.

ODF Plus Model village is one which sustains ODF status and has arrangements for both solid waste management and liquid waste management, observes visual cleanliness i.e. minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater to plastic waste dump in public places and displays ODF Plus on information, education and communication (IEC) messages. Each of these stages is to be validated by a Gram Sabha resolution.

The top performing States/ UTs which have achieved 100% ODF Plus villages are Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Ladakh, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Among the UTs are Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.

To speed up HGJ/ ODF Plus/ ODF Plus Model villages certification it is decided that HGJ & ODF Plus Model campaigns are organized across States/ UTs on priority basis in mission-mode.

To facilitate the declaration, it is requested to convene Special Gram Sabha in the month of July 2024 beginning from 22nd to 26th July 2024 and on 2nd October 2024, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation. These Gram Sabha will not only facilitate and motivate efforts of implementing agencies but also bring in community oversight into the processes and aid in efforts of implementing agencies.

States/ UTs are requested to take appropriate measures to ensure convening of Special Gram Sabhas for certifying HGJ & ODF Plus villages (including Aspiring, Rising and Model) in rural areas. The video and photograph of the proceeding of Gram Sabha as well as Resolutions are to be uploaded on JJM / SBM (G) IMIS declaring themselves HGJ/ ODF Plus/ ODF Plus Model villages.

Vini Mahajan
Secretary
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

सत्यमेव जयते

Vivek Bharadwaj
Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

D.O. No.S-18020/51/2022-SBM-DDWS

Dated 1st July, 2024

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is implementing two flagship schemes of Govt. of India *viz*. Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II. As of now, more than 14.91 crore rural households (77.24%) have access to potable water through tap connections with service levels of @ 55 lpcd. Similarly, more than 5.45 lakh villages have declared themselves as 'ODF plus' i.e. these villages have arrangement of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and/ or Liquid Waste Management (LWM). Both these schemes have been rapidly heading towards making our villages as 'Swachh Sujal'.

JJM envisages Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) certification through Gram Sabhas for all villages where 100% tap water coverage is reported. This promotes community ownership of piped water supply schemes and confirmation from people about coverage, service levels and functionality of tap connection. The states of Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and the UTs of A&N Islands, Puducherry and Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, have declared themselves as HGJ certified States/ UTs. The states of Gujarat and Mizoram are also making significant progress towards becoming HGJ certified States.

However, the progress in other states needs to be accelerated, as out of 2,24,999 villages reported as Har Ghar Jal on IMIS, only 1,22,364 have been certified as Har Ghar Jal so far.

With reference to SBM(G) Phase-II, out of 5,45,201 ODF Plus villages, 2,99,507 villages are ODF Plus aspiring villages with arrangements for SWM or LWM, 42,506 villages are ODF Plus rising villages with arrangements for both SWM & LWM and 2,03,188 villages are ODF Plus Model villages. ODF Plus Model village is one which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for both Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; observes visual cleanliness, i.e., minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater, no plastic waste dump in public places; and displays ODF Plus Information, Education & Communication (IEC) messages. Each of these stages is to be validated by a Gram Sabha resolution.

The top performing States/UTs which have achieved 100% ODF Plus villages are – Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Ladakh, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Among States/ UTs –Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu, Lakshadweep, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim have 100% ODF Plus Model villages.

contd..2/-

To speed up Har Ghar Jal/ ODF plus/ ODF plus model villages certification, it has been decided that **Har Ghar Jal and ODF Plus Model campaigns** may be organized across the States/ UTs on priority in mission mode. The successful implementation of the Har Ghar Jal and ODF Plus campaigns hinges upon collaborative efforts and proactive measures by all stakeholders.

In this regard, **to facilitate the declarations it is requested to convene Special Gram Sabhas in the month of July 2024 (week beginning 22nd to 26th July 2024) as well as on October 2, 2024**. The convening of these Gram Sabhas would not only facilitate and motivate the efforts of the implementing agencies but would also bring in an element of community oversight into the processes and aid the efforts of the implementing agencies.

States/UTs are accordingly requested to take appropriate measures to ensure convening of the Special Gram Sabhas on the above-mentioned dates for certifying Har Ghar Jal & ODF Plus villages (including Aspiring, Rising and Model) in the rural areas of the country. The videos & photographs of the proceedings of the Gram Sabha as well as the resolutions of the same declaring themselves Har as Ghar Jal/ ODF plus/ ODF plus model village are to be uploaded on the respective JJM/ SBM IMIS. Towards this goal, it is important that relevant departments at the State/ UT level viz. Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Public Health Engineering Department, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Departments work in unison and enable the successful declaration of achievements in this regard in the rural areas of the country.

Looking forward to successful implementation of the campaign.

Yours sincerely,

(Vini Mahajan)
Secretary
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Government of India

(Vivek Bharadwaj)
Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India

To,

Chief Secretaries of concerned States/UTs.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Chairs review meetings with States

Sh. C R Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti chaired the review meetings with the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and UT of Ladakh, and Jammu & Kashmir to oversee the progress and status of Jal Jeevan Mission. The meeting was attended by the Minister for State, Jal Shakti, Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) and other senior officers.

Figure 42: Madhya Pradesh

Figure 43: Meghalaya

Figure 44: Uttar Pradesh

Figure 45: Maharashtra

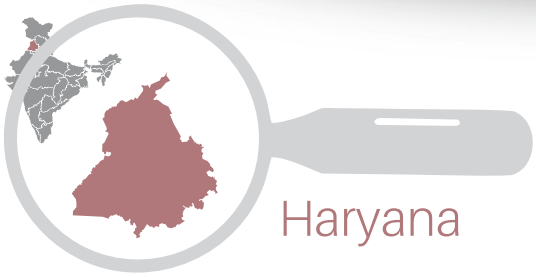
Figure 46: Jammu & Kashmir

Figure 47: Chhattisgarh

Figure 48: Uttarakhand

Figure 49: UT of Ladakh

JJM: Action on the Ground

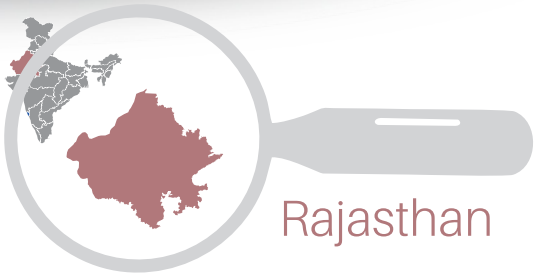


Haryana

Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, visited Ganeshpur Bhoriyo village in Panchkula district of Haryana on 6th July, 2024 to review the progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission & Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen in the State of Haryana.

The Secretary was welcomed by the woman Sarpanch and members of Pani Samiti. She interacted with villagers and students on WASH and its impact upon receiving potable drinking water under 'Har Ghar Jal' programme. She visited the water supply infrastructure built under JJM and waste segregation shed constructed under SBM-G. Fig 43: Secretary, DDWS interacting with local village community at Ganeshpur Bhoriyo Village, HaryanaDuring the discussion with the community, Smt. Mahajan highlighted the importance of safe drinking water for efficient use, recycling the waste water, recharging of ground water to address the depleting water table, keeping the water structures clean and issues related to water quality. She was accompanied by Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Engineer-cum-Mission Director, JJM; Director General, Department of Panchayati Raj; and other state officials.

Fig 50: Secretary, DDWS interacting with local village community at Ganeshpur Bhoriyo Village, Haryana



Rajasthan

Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary at Jal Jeevan Mission visited Ghegholi village, in Alwar district of Rajasthan on 6th July 2024. There she held an interaction with the District Collector & Chairman of Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) and reviewed the progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

She interacted with the members of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and women beneficiaries to understand how their life has changed with access to water within the household. She laid emphasis on source sustainability & how the Panchayat alongwith the administration is planning to implement ground water source-based schemes. Synergy between the Panchayati Raj & Water Resource department was urgently required to address specially the issues pertaining to contamination of water in specific areas.

She also urged officials to share the challenges encountered with respect to reliable surface water sources, and mapping of groundwater network for making short, medium and long-term plan on sustainability of schemes.

Fig 51: Joint Secretary, NJJM conducting interaction with members of Pani Samitis

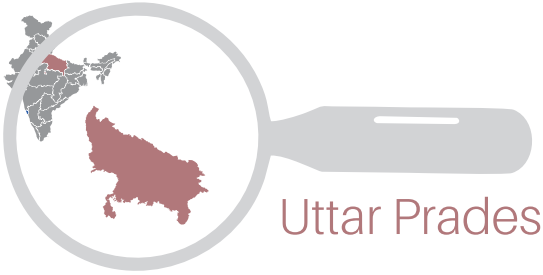
Chhattisgarh

Sh. Y K Singh, Director-NJJM, visited 12 villages in Bemetara District, of Chhattisgarh on 6th & 7th July 2024 to see the progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. On the first day, he held a meeting with Secretary, PHED, & State officials at Raipur. The discussion focused on functionality of tap connections, water quality, disaster management plan, role of IEC/BCC and source sustainability.

On the second day, Shri Singh interacted with the District Magistrate, Shri. Ranveer Sharma and discussed the coverage of tap connection, its functionality, frequent testing of water supplied, operation & maintenance, training under Nal Jal Mitra programme, IEC campaign, source sustainability & Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Shri. Singh, visited the water sources, overhead tanks, and delivery points and monitored its upkeep. He further, interacted with the Gram Pradhans, members of VWSC villagers, and beneficiaries who have benefitted under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Fig 52: Director, NJJM having one-to-one conversation with JJM beneficiary during his field visit

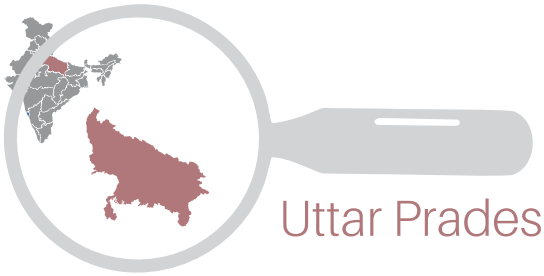


Uttar Pradesh

A team led by Shri. Pradeep Singh, Director-NJJM visited 12 villages of Nagpur & Bhandara on 6th & 7th July 2024 in Maharashtra to see the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission. He held a meeting with Additional Chief Executive Officer Zilla Parishad, Project Director - DWSM, Superintendent Engineer, Executive Engineer and other district officials at Nagpur on first day of his visit.

Shri. Singh visited Borgaon Khurd and Kothurna villages in Bhandara district to check the functionality of tap water connections. He interacted with the Sarpanch, local community to understand its Operation & Maintenance, water quality & testing. Further, he urged the district officials to focus on sustainability of water supply schemes.

Fig 53: Director, NJJM with members of Gram Panchayat

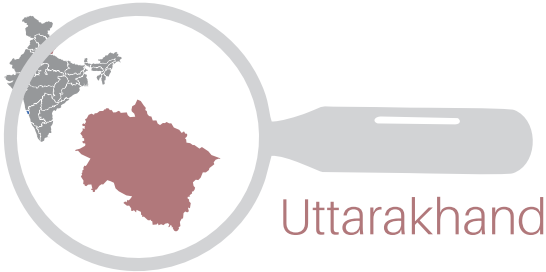


Uttar Pradesh

Shri. Umesh Bhardwaj, Deputy Secretary, NJJM visited 5 villages in five Blocks of Meerut District, in Uttar Pradesh on 7th July 2024 to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission.

He interacted with Sarpanches, members of Pani Samiti, village community to know the status of water supply and the availability of water at all times. He laid emphasis on supplying prescribed quality water, its regularity and testing of water. He was accompained by Project Manager-JJM and other district officials.

Fig 54: DS-NJJM and villagers interacting at JJM water supply site



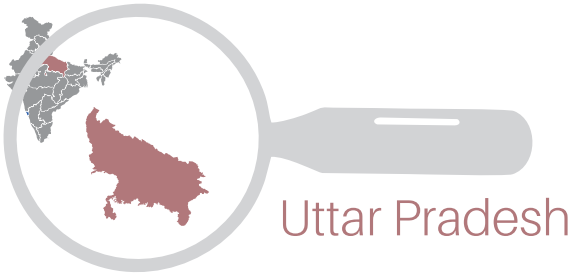
Uttarakhand

Shri Arunkumar Kembhavi, Deputy Secretary, NJJM visited HGJ certified village Simlas Grant in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 7th July 2024 to oversee the progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

During his visit, he interacted with GP Pradhan, pani samiti members and the community to assess the status of water supply in their village. He laid emphasis on functionality, ensuring water quality during monsoon season, O&M of scheme and source sustainability.

He was accompanied by Chief Engineer Uttarakhand, Executive Engineer and other officers from the State.

Fig 55: Director, NJJM and State team inspecting pipe water supply status during field visit



Uttar Pradesh

NJJM team led by Sh. Pradeep Singh, Director visited villages of Gorakhpur, Etawah and Balrampur district from 10th to 12th July in Uttar Pradesh to review the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Sh. Singh visited Madaria, Nibi Dubey, Nibseni, Bharroh, Tenduhani, Jangal Tinkunia-3, villages in Gorakhpur District. He interacted with Sarpanch and the community to learn about the status of O&M of schemes, water quality. He emphasized the sustainability of water supply schemes to district officials. The visit concluded with a meeting with district officials.

Fig 56: Director, NJJM and State team with local village community at water supply infrastructure created under JJM

NJJM team led by Shri Y. K. Singh, Director visited villages of Rajanandgaon and Durg, in Chhattisgarh on 12th & 13th July 2024 to review the progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Shri Singh interacted with Sarpanch and the local community to know the functionality of tap water connections, status of O&M and quality of water supplied. He emphasized on the sustainability and O&M of water supply schemes. The team also visited multi-village schemes schemes to ascertain the progress and requested State officials for early completion of all the works underway. The visit concluded with a meeting with District and PHE officials.

Fig 57: Director, NJJM having one-to-one conversation with JJM beneficiary during his field visit

Review meeting Punjab and Haryana

Secretary, DDWS & Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab jointly chaired the review meeting to oversee the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission & Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen, at Chandigarh on 5th July 2024. A similar meeting was held by the senior management of DDWS with Chief Secretary and officers of Haryana.

Smt. Mahajan laid emphasis on the sustainability of the programme and its long-term impact. All District Collectors were directed to give emphasis on water quality, identification of Water Quality affected hotspot and ensure timely action wherever problems are reported. The involvement of the community in managing the water infrastructure and taking ownership of the programme by the Gram Panchayats through its various sub-committees like the Self-Help Groups, building the capacity building of the various stakeholders, and activities with the locals involving the administration in developing ground water recharge systems are important facets of the programme.

Additional Secretary & Mission Director (AS&MD) - NJJM Dr Chandra Bhushan Kumar, made a brief presentation on the progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission in Punjab and its status covering status of schemes, financial progress, WQ testing reports, Nal Jal Mitra Programme, Operation & Maintenance, etc.

The Principal Secretary, Secretary, Mission Director, Chief Engineer, and all DCs/ DDOs joined the meeting virtually.

Fig 58: Secretary, DDWS and Chief Secretary, Punjab jointly reviewed progress of JJM & SBMG

Fig 59: Secretary, DDWS and Chief Secretary, Punjab jointly reviewed progress of JJM & SBMG

Assam's Jal Doot programme finds space in CBSE schools

Assam government's *Jal Doot* campaign which was launched under Jal Jeevan Mission, is set to be implemented in CBSE affiliated schools across India. The programme involves students, known as Jal Doots who will be assessing the local piped water supply schemes and promoting safe drinking water and water conservation. The Union Government has recognized the *Jal Doot* initiative as a national policy aiming to raise awareness and evaluate the water supply schemes throughout the country. It will empower the students to lead the way in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) management. Through *Jal Shala*, the students will gain critical skills to evaluate local piped water supply system. The scores after successful completion of activities will be reflected on dynamic scoreboard called **Jal Doot Leaderboard**.

The nation-wide movements could bolster India's efforts towards sustainable water use, environmental conservation, climate resilience involving young minds in Jal Andolan. It will create student champions who will act as Ambassadors for drinking water, water quality and water conservation.

Secretary, DDWS reviews progress of JJM Professor Chairs

Fig 60: Secretary, DDWS reviewed the progress of JJM Professor Chairs on 25th July 2024 in Delhi. The meeting was attended by Professor Chairs from IIM Bangalore, IIT Jodhpur, IIT Guwahati, TISS Mumbai and IIT Kanpur.

Fig 61: AS&MD chaired an online training session on 30th July 2024 to familiarize States/ UTs on use of dashboard with regard to functionality assessment of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission schemes and the progress of the survey by States/ UTs. The meeting was attended by officials from all States/ UTs.

Jal Jeevan Mission applauded at G20 Development Ministers' Meet in Brazil

At the G20 Development Ministers' Meet in Rio De Janeiro, India showcased its commitment to sustainable development through its flagship programmes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, and AMRUT. 23rd July 2024, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sh. Dammu Ravi, led India's delegation, emphasizing the nation's strides in enhancing global sanitation and hygiene services. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the G20 Ministerial Call to Action, reinforcing commitments to strengthen drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services worldwide. During his address, Secretary, Sh. Dammu Ravi underscored India's proactive role in advancing sanitation and water accessibility. He highlighted key national initiatives aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to water and sanitation.

Fig 62: Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Sh. Dammu Ravi outlined the progress of JJM in G20 meeting

Consultative KRC workshop on Capacity Building held at SPM Niwas, Kolkata

- NJJM

A two-day consultative workshop was organized at Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation, Kolkata on 18th and 19th July 2024. Key Resource Centres (KRCs) play a pivotal role in strengthening the ground level as well as government institutions on various aspects of Jal Jeevan Mission. It is therefore important to reorient the engagement of KRCs and undertake capacity building of various Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC).

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the previous performance of the KRCs and understand ground level challenges and issues towards capacity building and build future strategy to prepare an action plan in consultation with States/ UTs. Through the workshop KRCs aim to address the priority areas of the next phase of Jal Jeevan Mission. Engagement with each stakeholder holds important role in success of the mission, but with L3 Participants i.e. community level stakeholders are at the center stage in O&M phase as well as for long term sustainability.

The cohort of participants for this workshop was Head/ Director of respective KRCs and persons handling capacity building at State/ UT under JJM. 65 KRCs and 20 states/ UTs participated in the workshop.

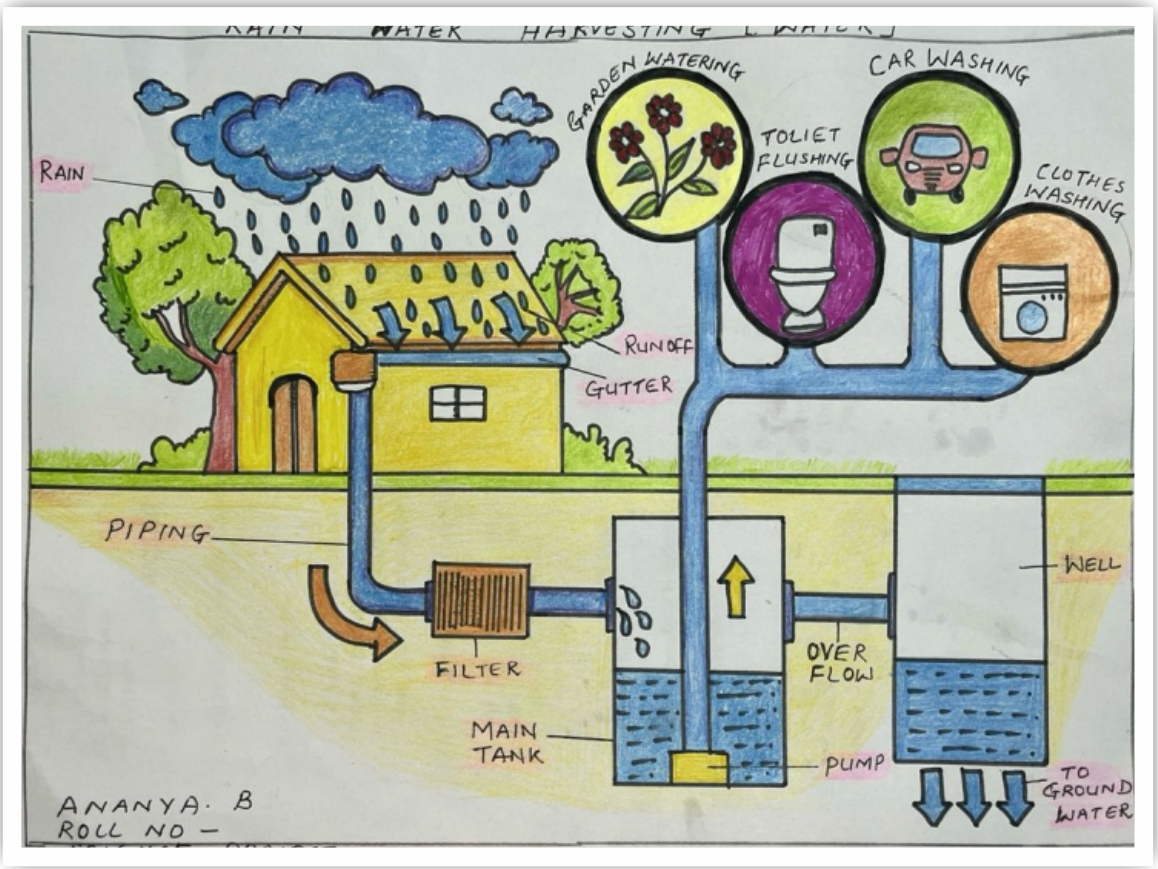
Dr. Anil Sharma, Scientist, SPM-NIWAS inaugurated the session. Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission while giving the keynote address spoke on the importance of Capacity Building at this juncture of the mission. He emphasized on the need for KRCs to undertake activities with more vigor to build the sense of ownership in the community under the Operation and Maintenance phase.

KRCs being grassroot institutions and partners of DDWS have over the years been extending support and handhold the community as well as decision makers from line departments. Their role becomes more pivotal in next phase. Further, he emphasized on streamlining the training delivery needs throughout the country. The modules may have local variations, but there must be uniform messaging across all platforms and all participants. It is right time to collect all the modules being utilized by KRCs and review their content to optimize them for uniformity and with right messages on priority areas under Jal Jeevan Mission.

The experts who addressed the workshop were Sh. Mohd. Ishfaq, Advisor, SPM-NIWAS, Shri Pradeep Singh, Director SPM-NIWAS, Shri Umesh Bhardwaj, Deputy Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission Shri Manish Wasuja, WASH Specialist UNICEF, Shri Mohammad Manjur Hussain, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF West Bengal, Shri Umesh Patil, Training Head, SPM-Niwas, Shri S P Sharma, Water Expert SPM-Niwas, Shri Anil Sharma, Scientist SPM-Niwas, Smt Neha Arora, Mission Director SBM-G Jharkhand and Shri Santosh Kumar Under Secretary, NJJM.

The workshop framed the future strategy for capacity building and emphasized that the priority areas for Jal Jeevan Mission are Operation and Maintenance Water Quality Monitoring, Grievance Redressal to improve the credibility of community, attaining financial sustainability, and institutional sustainability of rural water supply schemes.

Fig 63: AS & MD NJJM addressing the trainees



Look at the beautiful painting made by Ms. Ananya, from Raigarh Distrist, Chhattisgarh about "Rainwater Harvesting:. She painted the way to collect and storage of rainwater, instead of allowing it to flow away, for future use. The collected water is contained in percolating wells, shafts, etc.

JJM in News and Social Media

डायरिया पर सरकार लगाएगी अंकुश

स्वच्छ गांव, शुद्ध जल-बेहतर कल के जरिए डायरिया पर अंकुश लगाएगी सरकार

ICSSR invites research proposals on JJM scheme

पानी समितियों के साथ संवाद

PM Modi launched the Jal Jeevan Mission on August 15, 2019.

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Samvad

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