Jal Jeevan Samvad

June | Volume 6 | Issue 06 | Year 2025

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Contents

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Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

MANN KI BAAT
29 JUNE 2025

अब भारत Trachoma मुक्त देश बन चुका है। ये उन लाखों लोगों की मेहनत का फल है, जिन्होंने बिना थके, बिना रुके, इस बीमारी से लड़ाई लड़ी। ये सफलता हमारे health workers की है।

'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान' से भी इसे मिटाने में बड़ी मदद मिली। 'जल जीवन मिशन' का भी इस सफलता में बड़ा योगदान रहा। आज जब घर-घर नल से साफ पानी पहुँच रहा है, तो ऐसी बीमारियों का खतरा कम हो गया है। 'विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन' WHO ने भी इस बात की सराहना की है कि भारत ने बीमारी से निपटने के साथ-साथ उसके मूल कारणों को भी दूर किया है।

My dear countrymen, I now want to tell you about two such achievements of the country, which will fill you up with pride...We resolved to eradicate Trachoma from its roots. And I am very happy to share ***with you that WHO has declared India Trachoma free.*** *India now has become a Trachoma free country. This is the result of the hard work of lakhs of people who fought this disease tirelessly; without a break. This success belongs to our health workers.*

Therefore, the ***'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'*** *also helped in eradicating it. The* ***'Jal Jeevan Mission'*** *also contributed a lot to this success.*

Today, when clean water is reaching every home through taps, the risk of such ailments has reduced. *'World Health Organisation' WHO has also appreciated the fact that along with tackling the disease, India has also got rid of its root causes.*

- Form the excerpt of PM's Mann Ki Baat, June 2025

Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

C R Patil
Minister of Jal Shakti

*As of now, over **15 crore rural households (above 80%)** have been provided with tap water connections, a steep rise from just 3.23 crore households (17%) in August 2019*

- Shri CR Patil during Press Conference on 26th June, 2025

Foreword

There is something about water that asks us to pause. It doesn't matter whether it's a rushing river, a leaky tap, or the sound of rain on a tin roof – water insists on being noticed. And perhaps that's what this month's theme is quietly urging us to do: to stop and take stock of how closely water, environment, and life are bound together.

We often speak of water in utilitarian terms – how many households have tap connections, how many litres are supplied, how far we have come since the Mission began. But in that arithmetic, it is easy to overlook the deeper meaning of water in a rural household. It is the comfort of knowing a child won't fall ill from drinking what's available. It is time freed up for women to work, rest, or simply breathe. It is the difference between surviving and truly living.

This edition of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* explores what happens when the idea of "access to water" expands into something more – something that nurtures the environment, restores balance, and gives back to life itself. The stories within speak of old ponds brought back to life, of village communities that harvest rain as a sacred act, of pipelines that do more than deliver water – they bring ease of living.

With World Environment Day and the International Day of Yoga marked on the calendar, this month encourages us to pause, realign, and reconnect; with ourselves, our surroundings, and the vital element that links it all: water. We also find ourselves at a time when the climate is reminding us, sharply and often, that water cannot be taken for granted. Rivers run dry, groundwater tables drop, floods arrive uninvited. It is no longer enough to build systems that deliver water – we must build a culture that protects it.

And that is where local wisdom, community ownership, and environmental consciousness must move from the margins to the centre. There are no shortcuts here. But there is hope. And that hope is visible, in the voices, actions, and determination of those working on the ground.

This month, I had the opportunity to visit villages in Maharashtra, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu to review the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen. It was deeply satisfying to witness how these Missions have taken shape on the ground.

Let us take this moment to look beyond the numbers. Let us ask more meaningful questions about our relationship with water and the environment. And perhaps, above all, let us listen a little more closely to what water has been trying to tell us all along.

The edition brings together narratives of innovation, collaboration, and perseverance. I urge the readers to read them not just as achievements, but as inspiration to work harder, listen deeper, and care more, for the environment that sustains us, and the water that defines life itself. Let June be our reminder: in water lies the seed of wellness, the root of resilience, and the soul of sustainable living.

Ashok K. K. Meena
Secretary,
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

At Jal Jeevan Mission, we believe that access, equity, and sustainability must go hand in hand. They are not competing priorities, but essential building blocks of rural transformation. Each drop of safe drinking water delivered is a step towards dignity. Each revived source is a pledge to the environment. Each empowered community signals inclusive development in action.

This June, as the world observed World Environment Day and the International Day of Yoga, both reminders of our interdependence with nature – our work reaffirmed a core truth: water is a living connection between people, progress, and the planet.

This edition comes at a time when the relationship between water, environment, and life is not just thematic – it is existential. Water is a signal of hope, harmony, and human possibility.

Across the country, change is taking root. In Maharashtra and Mizoram, communities are harvesting rainwater as a way of life. In Assam and Madhya Pradesh, resilience is being redefined, not by resisting floods or doubt, but by preparing, adapting, and learning. In the Himalayan terrain, a simple spring-box protects purity. In Sarola, Maharashtra, a hybrid solar system powers sustainability. In Odisha, the CHHATA Scheme is institutionalising rooftop rainwater harvesting across public and private infrastructure. In Moubellia, West Bengal, school children have become green ambassadors, raising awareness about water, hygiene, and environmental care with energy and creativity.

These efforts represent how innovation meets intention, and how the next generation is not just learning about sustainability, but living it. While you will read these stories in detail in the ensuing pages, each reflects the shift from service delivery to participatory governance, depicting how real change is unfolding on the ground.

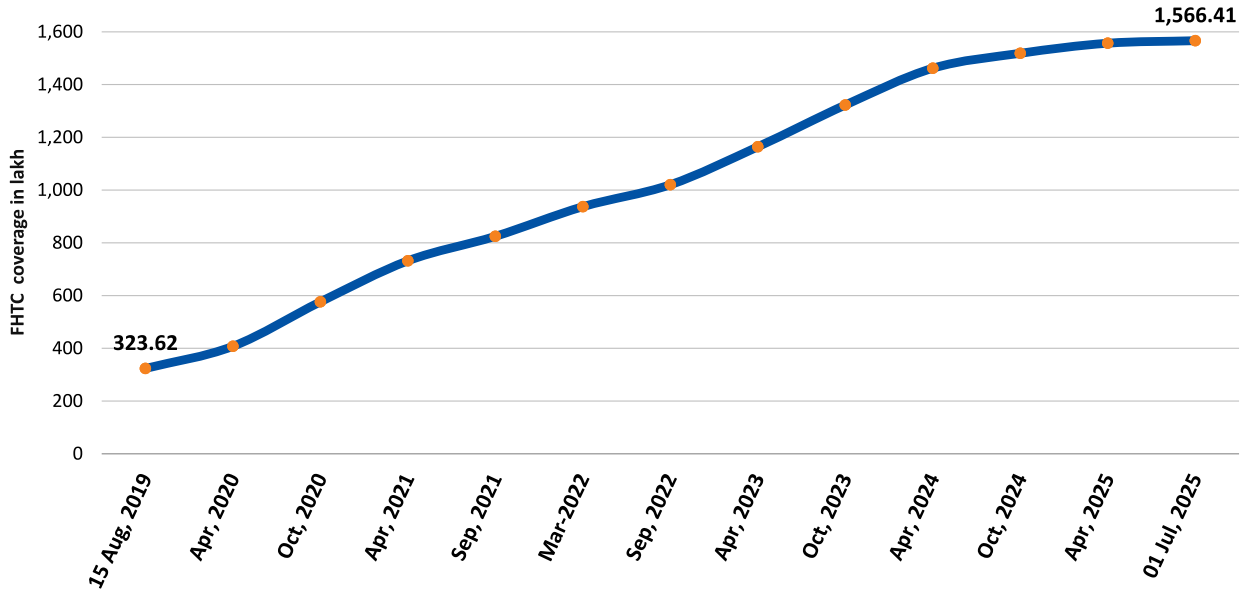
This month also marked a significant step in regional cooperation, as India and Nepal convened the first Joint Working Group meeting on WASH. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to mutual learning in areas such as groundwater management, sanitation, and capacity building.

Further, our ongoing JJM Samvad sessions with District Collectors and Magistrates have deepened our engagement at the grassroots. With over 525 officers participating so far, this platform has become central to knowledge exchange, collaborative problem-solving, and shared accountability.

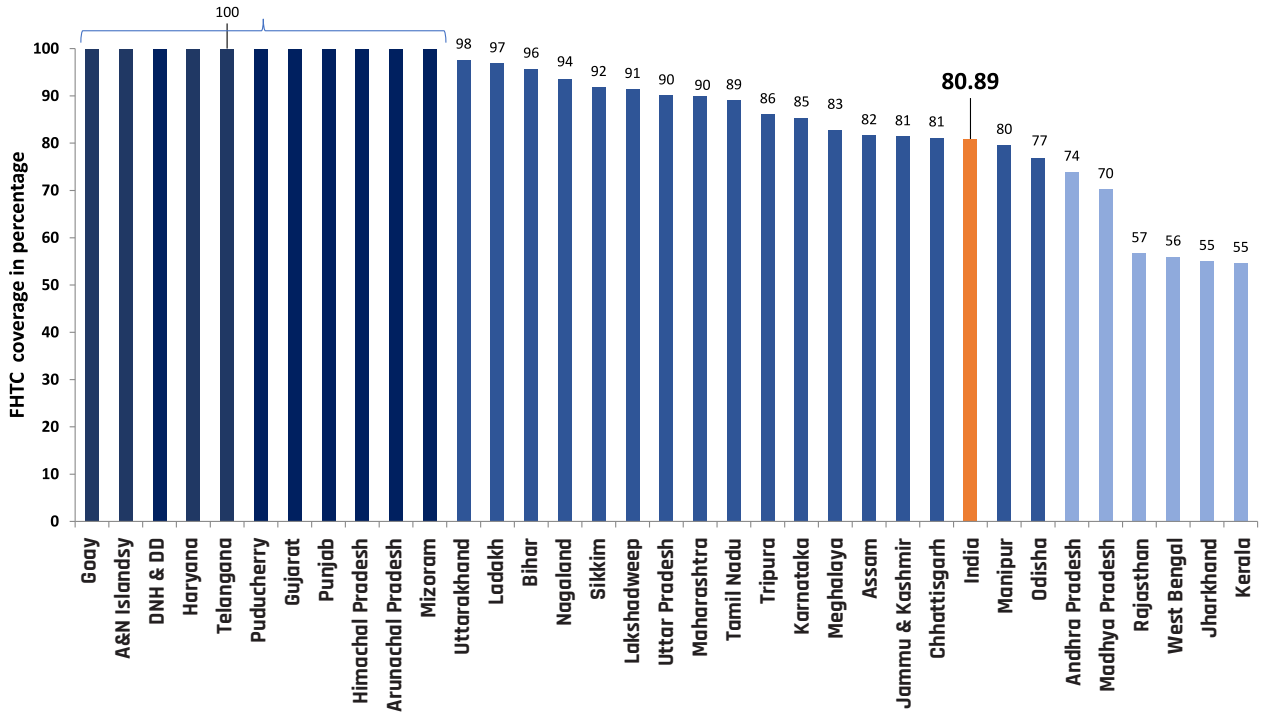
As the monsoon renews our rivers and the rain taps gently on our roofs, let us pause and ask: Are we building systems that last? Are we listening to the communities we serve? Are we walking in step with nature? Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening convergence, enhancing institutional capacity at the grassroots, and enabling cross-learning across states and districts. At the same time, we must address the pressing challenges of climate variability, source sustainability, and water pollution – especially from plastic waste, a key concern this World Environment Day. The future, like water, will not wait. But it will respond – to care, to courage, and to commitment. Let us continue to build with purpose, act with foresight, and deliver with integrity.

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

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 30.06.2025)



Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 30.06.2025)



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

As on 30th June, 2025

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
19,36,40,614	3,23,62,838 (16.71%)	+13,814 15,66,41,071 (80.89%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,42,78,233 (77.06%)

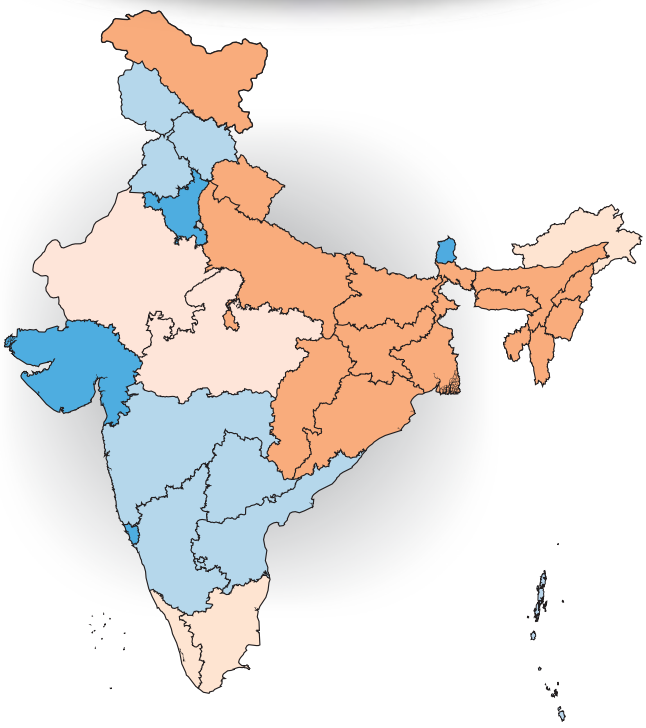
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

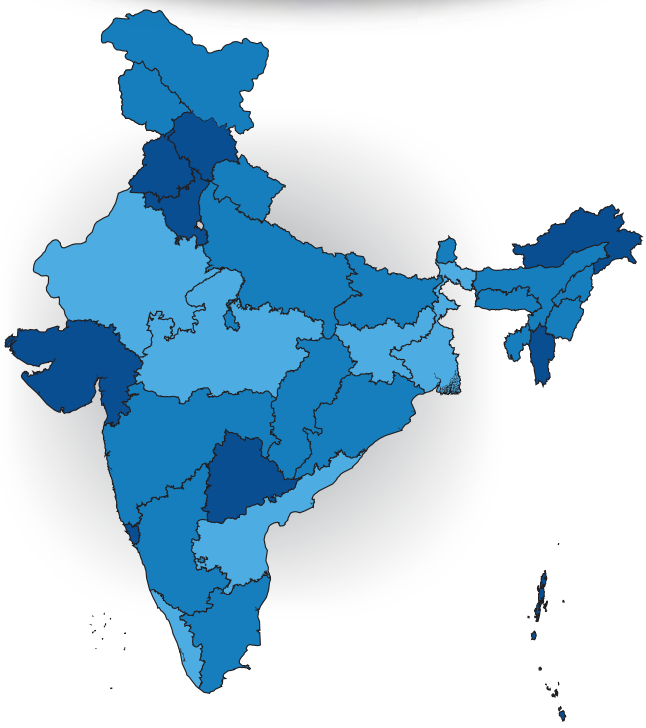
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat

100% FHTC Districts	100% FHTC Blocks	100% FHTC Panchayats	100% FHTC Villages
190	1,900	1,23,273	2,61,798

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 30th June, 2025



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

Water, Environment and Life -
A Journey Toward Harmony and Sustainability

- Lopamudra Panda
NPMU-NJJM

Sometimes, it's worth pausing to reflect on how deeply water, environment, and life are interconnected and being the wisest creation of the supreme power what is our responsibility to save being catastrophic!

Every June, as the world celebrates Environment Day, we're reminded of the vital threads that weave the fabric of life on Earth. Chief among them is water. It flows through our ecosystems, sustains biodiversity, nourishes crops, and quenches our thirst. Yet, water is not just a resource. It is a living connection between humanity and nature, a symbol of balance and life. In a country like India, where rainfall is limited to 27 odd days[1] with vast regions under semi-arid or arid conditions, the challenges are vast, and the stakes are even higher. Pursuing water security is not optional. It is the very foundation of inclusive growth, improved quality of life, public health, environmental justice, and human dignity. In the context of rural India, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is emerging as a pivotal force, not just ensuring tap water access, but playing a key role in environmental sustainability and climate resilience by focusing a sense of onus among community on water

[1] Climate & Rainfall

source sustainability, ground water recharge, wastewater management.

Rooted in the ethos of "Har Ghar Jal", the vision of ensuring potable water supply to every rural household, JJM is not merely a service delivery scheme. It is a movement to restore dignity, promote health, and nurture environmental stewardship. Through sustainable and inclusive water supply infrastructure, source sustainability measures, and active community involvement, the mission connects access to water with the broader goals of ecosystem protection and human development. The mission is helping communities to navigate how water, and environment are intrinsically linked and important for existence of life and for a better tomorrow.

The Natural Bond Between Water and Environment

When we speak of water, we just can't forget to speak about environment. Rivers, lakes, wetlands, springs, and aquifers are not just water sources, they are ecosystems. Healthy water systems support aquatic, terrestrial, amphibians, aerial and plant lives. When polluted or over-extracted, they collapse, leading to biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and suffering.

In rural India, traditional ponds, tanks, and stepwells once played dual role pf serving both community needs and nurturing biodiversity. Reviving and integrating these into modern water systems is key to sustainable rural development.

Protect Water Sources: Being Polluted with Plastic Waste

The 2025 World Environment Day theme, ***'collective action to tackle plastic pollution'*** has deep relevance to water supply. It resonates deeply with the health of our water systems and the sustainability of clean water supply, especially in rural India. Plastic pollution is not just a visual blight; it is a growing threat to the availability and safety of potable water. Plastics dumped indiscriminately often find their way into water bodies, either directly or through drainage systems. Over time, these plastics break down into microplastics, which have now been detected in rivers, lakes, groundwater, and even in our drinking water. This contamination directly affects human health, aquatic ecosystems, and the integrity of rural water supply infrastructure.

The impact of plastic on water is multi-layered. In rural areas, the presence of plastic waste near water sources such as hand pumps, wells, water supply sources, or catchment areas can severely affect water quality. When plastics clog drainage channels and irrigation canals, they hinder natural water flow and harvesting, thereby reducing the recharge of aquifers and polluting stored water. Moreover, plastics

interfere with the functioning of water supply systems under initiatives like JJM, where filtration units and delivery pipelines can get choked or contaminated due to poor plastic waste management. Additionally, the broader impact of plastic production on climate change, through high energy consumption and emissions, indirectly affects water cycles by altering rainfall patterns and contributing to water scarcity.

To address this issue effectively, it is critical to integrate plastic waste reduction into water-related action plans at the community level. Villages can be empowered to undertake regular clean-up drives near water bodies, tanks, and drinking water sources, led by VWSCs and SHGs. These efforts can become part of a larger ***'Jan Andolan'*** a people's movement for clean water and a plastic-free environment. Clean-up drives should be supported by awareness campaigns and behavior change communication (BCC), where the message is simple but powerful: 'Plastic-free water, plastic-free life.'

Educational activities in schools, folk media campaigns, wall paintings, and community meetings can reinforce the risks posed by plastic waste to clean water.

Further, the synergy between JJM and SBM-G needs to be strengthened at state down to ensure that solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) is implemented with a strong focus on preventing plastic from entering water systems. Villages declared as Swachh Sujal Gaon must also aspire to be plastic-free zones, particularly around water sources. Panchayats can play a key role in enacting local bans on single-use plastic and ensuring that water scheme implementation includes plastic waste safeguards.

Traditional practices and local innovations can also help reduce plastic dependence. Encouraging the use of earthen pots, cloth bags, metal bottles, and natural filtration methods can revive sustainable water-use habits and reduce the pressure on packaged drinking water and plastic containers. Promoting community water purification systems in rural areas can decrease the reliance on bottled water and encourage collective ownership of clean water infrastructure.

Ultimately, tackling plastic pollution in the context of water is a collective responsibility. From households segregating waste, to panchayats regulating plastic usage, to school children spreading awareness — everyone has a role. The path to a clean water future lies in a clean environment, and the fight against plastic is central to both. On this World Environment Day, let us commit to making every drop of water safe, every stream free of plastic, and every community a steward of sustainable change.

JJM has been actively converging with other departments and programs to ensure water infrastructure goes hand in hand with environment rejuvenation for a better life. In some states, village action plans include tree plantations, catchment area

To make a greener and resilient planet the state of Uttar Pradesh has come up with a simple but unique initiative – **'Ek Nal Ek Ped'**[2] a unique pioneering effort. This contributes to a greener environment for the community so also serves a vital step in tackling the ongoing climate change crisis.

Figure 1: Community joins hands for 'Ek Nal Ek Ped' movement | *Source: navbharattimes.indiatimes.com*

[2] https://l1nq.com/e1uQr

treatment, and watershed management building an ecosystem approach to water security.

Building Buffers Against Climate Change

Climate change is altering rainfall patterns and intensifying droughts in many parts of India. The worst affected are often the poorest dependent on shallow wells, unlined ponds, and seasonal springs.

JJM is also focusing on sustainable water source interventions, including aquifer mapping, spring-shed management in Himalayan states, recharge structures at borewells, and rooftop rainwater harvesting. These strategies enable communities to build resilience by storing excess rainwater underground during monsoons, ensuring a steady tap water supply and availability during lean months. This is essentially, nature's own savings account.

In Sikkim's Kyongnosla Panchayat, located at 3,600 meters amidst the Himalayas, community members have taken proactive steps to address water supply challenges. The region's household tap water supply under JJM, sourced from springs, often gets disrupted in winters due to freezing. To overcome this, locals devised an innovative solution – the **'Spring Box'**. This small, protective collection basin surrounds the spring, safeguarding the water from freezing and external contamination, thereby maintaining its purity.[3] There are many innovative initiatives taken by other Himalayan states too contributing as a buffer against climate change.

The Power of Green Infrastructure

Environmentally responsible water supply isn't just about quantity, it's also about how we deliver it. JJM promotes the use of solar-powered pumps, gravity-fed systems, and low-carbon construction materials. These green technologies reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.

In villages where electricity is unreliable, solar-based water supply schemes ensure round-the-clock service. Moreover, water tanks made using fly ash bricks or recycled materials show how sustainability can be woven into the very structure of our water systems.

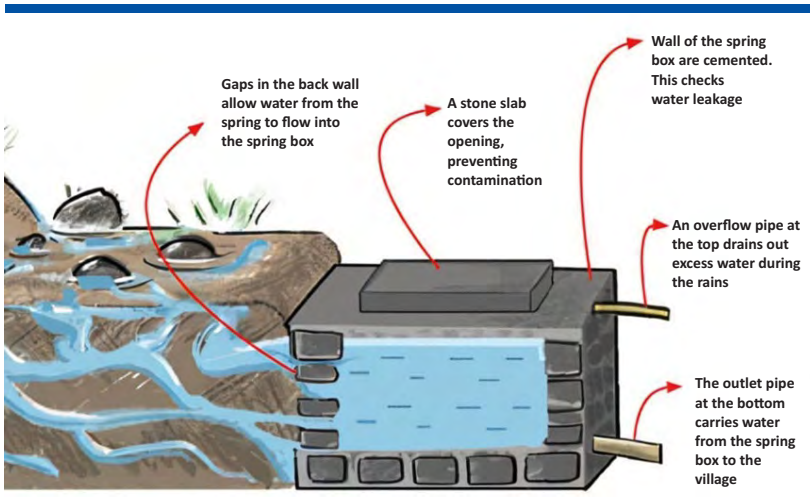
Community Stewardship: Villages Leading the Way

True environmental protection begins at the grassroots. Across India, communities are emerging as custodians of their local water sources. VWSCs, often led by women, are managing water schemes with remarkable efficiency and environmental consciousness.

In several villages, these committees are conducting water budgeting exercises, calculating how much water is available and planning usage accordingly. They are also fencing water bodies, preventing pollution, planting trees, and running cleanliness drives. Their message is clear: water is life, and it must be respected.

Plastic-Free Water Campaigns: A Small Step, A Big Impact

Water and plastic make a tragic combination. In many areas, the distribution of water has historically



Schematic representation of 'spring-box'

Spring-box

Figure 2: The diagrammatic flow of 'Spring box' | Source: JJM Samvad

[3] Jal Jeevan Samvad February 2022, Issue-XVII English

relied on plastic containers, sachets, and pipes that degrade quickly. JJM's IEC campaigns are pushing for plastic-free water zones, encouraging the use of metal or clay containers and banning single-use plastics around water sources.

Children and school eco-clubs have taken the lead, creating murals, performing street plays, and even conducting plastic audits in their villages. These small actions are helping create big shifts in mindset. Communities are uniting to clean plastic waster from water bodies and in and around water supply sources.

Wetlands and Traditional Water Bodies: Nature's Reservoirs

Wetlands and traditional water bodies act as sponges that store floodwaters, recharge groundwater, and support diverse flora and fauna. Yet, they've often been neglected in development planning. Traditionally community are rich in water conservation practices but with time somewhere these ancient wisdoms are fading.

States/UTs can work with local governments and NGOs to map and restore traditional water bodies ponds, johads, and tankas that double up as ecological assets. These water bodies are being desilted, deepened, and revived, not just for drinking water recharge, but to restore their original role in the local environmental fabric.

Women as Eco-Leaders in Water Governance

Women are often the first to feel the pinch of water scarcity and the first to act. From testing water quality using Field Testing Kits (FTKs) to leading Pani Samitis, they are now steering village-level decisions with an eye on sustainability.

In many regions, SHG women are trained to ensure water quality by testing and doing regular audits of water sources, report encroachments or contamination, and even advocate for green practices like organic farming to reduce chemical runoff into drinking water sources.

Youth as Eco Ambassadors

Children and adolescents are not just learners they are leaders. In Assam under JJM, school campaigns and eco-club activities are driving water and environment messages home. From drawing competitions to water walks and nature journaling, students are becoming change agents. The 'Jal Doot' initiative of Assam has gained national recognition. Children and youth are taking charge of environmental eco system as 'Jal Doots'.

Launching school campaigns with 'Water Parliament,' as an activity where students will debate local water issues and propose environment-friendly solutions can be a great initiative, where they will monitor their school's water usage and organize annual 'Jal Mahotsavs.' This type of initiatives will develop a sense of responsibility among the future generations from this tender age.

Cultural Wisdom and Eco-Harmony

Indian culture reveres water. From the sacred rivers to community wells worshipped during festivals, there's a long tradition of treating water with respect. Tapping into this heritage, IEC efforts can blend scientific messages with cultural idioms in State/UTs. Though folk songs, puppetry, and events are being used to convey messages of conservation and cleanliness. Elders should share stories of how their ancestors' protected springs or shared water during droughts. This emotional connect will foster collective responsibility.

Wetlands, Watersheds, and Wildlife Corridors: The Larger Canvas

Water supply cannot be seen in isolation. **When a spring dries, a stream dies**. **When a stream is diverted, a forest shrinks**. Hence water supply should align with broader ecological initiatives protecting watersheds, promoting rainwater harvesting, wastewater management, reviving traditional waterbodies, and conserving biodiversity corridors.

The vision should be bigger for ensuring environmental harmony!

Water is Life, Water is Nature, Water is Us

The journey of Jal Jeevan Mission is not just about taps and pipelines. It's about dignity, health, equity and the environment. It's about restoring our connection with nature, ensuring that our progress does not come at the cost of future generations.

As we observe World Environment Day, we should remind ourselves that being friends with nature begins with water. Every drop saved, every source protected, every stream revived is a step toward sustainability.

In the villages of India, all we need is to nurture the green shoots of change together.

Agents of Change:
How Community Leaders are Championing WASH in Madhya Pradesh

- Amar Prakash
State Programme Director,
WaterAid India

Copy Edited by
Chanchal Kumar Modi,
NPMU-NJJM

In Damoh District, Madhya Pradesh, a transformative movement is underway driven by grassroots leadership and a shared commitment to sustainable water and sanitation practices. Through a dynamic partnership between WaterAid India and Jal Nigam, which is aligned with the ambitious goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), rural communities are empowered to take charge of their water futures. This collaboration ensures reliable access to clean water and sanitation and nurtures a culture of conservation and hygiene. At the heart of this success are dedicated community leaders like Kamod Singh, Mukesh Singh, and Kadori Sen—true WASH champions whose inspiring efforts are reshaping their villages and setting powerful examples of local leadership in action.

Figure 3: Mukesh Singh Encouraging Community Level WQ Testing System | *Source: WaterAid India*

Figure 4: Kamod Singh Contribution to Suraksha Nidhi | *Source: WaterAid India*

Kamod Singh: VWSC Member Leading Water Conservation in Khanchari Pati village

In Khanchari Pati, where piped water connections had reached homes but responsible usage lagged, Kamod Singh, a dedicated Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) member, took charge. Observing widespread water wastage due to broken or missing taps, Kamod led a campaign encouraging households to install proper fixtures. His hands-on approach—visiting homes, explaining the importance of water conservation, and helping families install taps—resulted in a dramatic reduction in water loss.

Kamod also introduced the concept of financial ownership, motivating villagers to pay their water tariffs and contribute to a security fund (Suraksha Nidhi) for maintenance and emergency repairs. This initiative, a first in the region, fostered a sense of collective responsibility and ensured the sustainability of the Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWSS).

"Kamod Bhaiya explained everything so clearly that now each home values every drop of water," shared a community member.

Mukesh Singh: Sarpanch Pratinidhi Driving Financial Sustainability in Mudari village

In Mudari, Mukesh Singh, the Sarpanch Pratinidhi, has become a beacon of participatory water governance. Recognizing that

Figure 5: Mukesh Singh Collecting Water Tariff | *Source: Water Aid India*

sustainable water systems require community investment, Mukesh spearheaded a structured water tariff collection system, achieving an unprecedented 100% collection rate. His efforts included educating villagers on the importance of contributing to their water services and maintaining transparent financial records.

Mukesh also energised the VWSC, ensuring regular meetings, community-level monitoring of water quality, and community-led maintenance of the PWSS. His leadership has made Mudari a model village where the water system is not only efficient but also self-reliant and community-managed.

"Now we all contribute, and our water system runs without issues," said a resident, reflecting the shift in mindset Mukesh has inspired.

Kadori Sen: A Field Volunteer Transforming Jujhar into a WASH-Secure Village

In Jujhar, where water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges once hindered daily life, Kadori Sen, a field volunteer who have been trained by WaterAid India, has led a holistic transformation. His efforts began with promoting toilet construction and hygiene awareness, ensuring that every household had access to sanitation facilities. He also championed greywater management, reducing water stagnation and improving village cleanliness.

Kadori's commitment extended to the operational side of the PWSS. He facilitated timely maintenance, and tracking of the availability and adequacy of drinking water, encouraged regular tariff payments, and worked closely with local committees to resolve issues. The result: 100% toilet coverage, improved access to clean drinking water, and a visibly cleaner environment.

"Because of Kadori Bhaiyya, every house now has a toilet, and our drinking water is regular and clean," said a village elder.

Partnership between WaterAid India and Jal Nigam: Enabling Grassroots Leadership

These stories are not isolated successes—they are the result of a robust partnership between WaterAid India, Jal Nigam, with the communities themselves. Through capacity building, technical support, and community mobilization, WaterAid India has empowered local leaders to take ownership of their village's water and sanitation systems. The Jal Jeevan Mission's vision of "Har Ghar Jal" is being realized not just through infrastructure, but through community-led governance, financial sustainability, and behavioral change.

Together, these changemakers are proving that when communities are empowered, and when leadership is nurtured at the grassroots, sustainable WASH outcomes are not just possible—they are inevitable.

Figure 6: Kadori Sen_PWSS Tracking | *Source: Water Aid India*

Taps of Hope, Streams of Change!

- Anushree Pal
PHED Birbhum Division

Copy Edited By Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

Water, Environment, and Life - A Village Transforms

In Moubellia village in West Bengal, nestled within the lush landscapes of Birbhum district, the rhythm of life once echoed with a common struggle—access to clean water. For its 742 residents, safe drinking water was a distant dream, and the scarcity became dire in the dry season, exacerbated by falling groundwater levels. Villagers relied on faraway, often contaminated sources, risking their health and spending hours every day just to fetch water—time that could have been spent on education, income generation, or rest.

But then came a turning point—a flow of change through Jal Jeevan Mission, bringing not just water, but a renewed connection between **Water, Environment and Life** ensuring community well-being.

Figure 7: An ASHA didi shows the result of water after testing with a Field Test Kit
Source: PHED Birbhum Division

Figure 8-9: Children find joy in having potable from taps in home | *Source: PHED Birbhum Division*

The journey towards transformation began with the mission, of providing potable water piped to every home. The first signs of progress emerged as pipelines snaked through the village, connecting households to a centralized water supply system. The sight of taps gushing with clean, potable water became a symbol of hope and resilience for the villagers, marking the end of their arduous struggle for water.

With access to safe water now at their doorstep, the impact on the village Moubellia was profound and

immediate. Health improved as incidents of waterborne diseases plummeted, particularly among children and the elderly. Women and girls, once burdened with the task of fetching water from distant sources, found newfound freedom to pursue education and income-generating activities.

Once plagued by water scarcity, Moubellia village in Birbhum district has today emerged as a beacon of resilience and transformation. The village's struggle for safe drinking water was long and arduous, marked by long treks to distant, unreliable sources and frequent health issues due to contamination.

Sabuj Jal Joddha Bahini the Young Guardians of Water

In Moubellia, the connection between water, environment, and life is being championed not just by adults—but by the village's youngest citizens. At the heart of this movement is the Sabuj Jal Joddha Bahini, a spirited group of **school-based green water warriors** formed by the Implementation Support Agency (ISA).

Comprising five students and a teacher coordinator, the Bahini steps out every week to educate neighboring communities on **water conservation, safe drinking water practices, and environmental protection.** Through street plays, interactive sessions, and household visits, these young leaders spread awareness that ripples across generations.

Their activism is not just symbolic—it is transformational. By embedding water conservation and hygiene education into the learning ecosystem, the Bahini ensures that sustainability becomes a lived value, not just a taught concept. Their work illustrates how **children can drive lasting change, becoming lifelong custodians of natural resources and environmental balance**.

The Sabuj Jal Joddha Bahini beautifully exemplifies the June theme: Water, Environment, and Life. It shows how clean water inspires cleaner surroundings, stronger communities, and a greener future—led by youth who believe in action.

Champions of Water Quality: ASHA Workers and SHGs

Ensuring water quality has become a community-led effort in Mobulia. ASHA workers play a crucial role by conducting regular water tests using Field Test Kits (FTKs), building trust in the drinking water ieco-system and promoting a culture of hygiene and accountability.

Supporting this effort is the dynamic women-led Self-Help Group (SHG), Marangburu Swayambar Goshti. Led by Pushpa Kisku and Sharma Hansda, the SHG meets regularly to discuss both internal and community-wide issues, with WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) as a core focus. They monitor household water supply, ensure proper chlorination, and record any grievances with the Panchayat—ensuring no concern goes unheard.

Figure 10: Sabuj Jol Joddha in schools spread correct and complete WASH messages across their peers and communities | *Source: PHED Birbhum Division*

Figure 11: Residents of Moubelia enjoying a group dance with 'dhamsa' & 'madol', expressing the joy they felt with the FHTC | *Source: PHED Birbhum Division*

Their active involvement exemplifies community-led water supply management, where women are not only beneficiaries but also key decision-makers and monitors of the system.

In addition to their work in water governance, the SHG actively supports the Swachh Bharat Mission. From waste segregation awareness to discouraging open defecation, their efforts have led to visibly cleaner surroundings. Their work is not limited to awareness—they lead by example, organizing village clean-up drives, promoting home sanitation, and ensuring cleanliness in public spaces.

They also contribute to **environmental sustainability by organizing tree plantation drives every July** and engage in livelihood activities such as Kantha embroidery and producing sal leaf plates-empowering women economically while serving the village.

A Model of Participatory Development

The success of Moubellia's water story lies not just in infrastructure but in community ownership and participatory governance. Villagers take pride in safeguarding their water assets. From proactive grievance redressal to collaborative maintenance, every resident plays a part in ensuring that the gains of Jal Jeevan Mission are sustained.

Moubellia today stands as a testimony to the transformative power of ***Jan Bhagidari***—where every tap tells a story of resilience, every drop signals a new beginning, and every woman, child, and villager becomes a stakeholder in shaping a healthier, more empowered future through community-led water supply management.

Figure 12: Self-Help Group members plays an important role in carrying messages within their community Village-Tinor, G.P- Ghurisha, Block-Illambazar | *Source: PHED Birbhum Division*

A Village Pioneering Safe Water and Sustainable Practices in Madhya Pradesh

- Rahul Sharma
Field Coordinator and
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District Coordinator, Madhya Pradesh, Evidence Action Division

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Figure 13: INJJM Water infrastructure at Deh Village, Madhya Pradesh | *Source: Evidence Action*

Access to safe drinking water is not only essential for public health but also a critical step towards conserving our precious water resources. As access to safe water in rural India progresses under Jal Jeevan Mission, communities are now starting to recognize that ensuring water safety goes hand in hand with protecting the environment.

The story of Deh village in Madhya Pradesh highlights how the introduction of simple, effective technologies like in-line chlorination, backed by community engagement, can drive both behavioral change and environmental stewardship. It reflects how **safe water practices can reduce wastage, prevent contamination, and promote sustainable water use for generations to come**.

Deh, a small village in the Obaidullahganj block of Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh, is home to over 1,400 people. In 2024, under the guidance of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) and the State Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) - Madhya Pradesh, Evidence Action installed an in-line chlorination (ILC) device in the village to ensure safe drinking water reaches every household.

An in-line chlorination device, especially when integrated into a community-oriented water system, offers a low-cost, low-waste, and energy-efficient way to deliver safe drinking water. Its design simplicity, reliability, and targeted chlorine use make it a sustainable water purification option aligned with both public health goals and the responsible use of natural resources.

When Change Meets Doubt

While most villagers welcomed the chlorinated water, understanding its benefits, few families like Sonu Keer's were hesitant due to the altered taste and smell of the water. Uncomfortable with the change, they stopped using the water and raised their concern with the village Sarpanch.

Fostering Awareness Through Community Sensitization and Collective Understanding

The village Sarpanch addressed the concern and brought it to the

Figure 14: Gram Panchayat members, along with Self Help Group members are interacting with villagers | Source: Evidence Action

attention of the members of *Pani Samiti* and Self-Help Group (SHG), along with the pump operator and the field coordinator from Evidence Action. Together, they patiently explained the life-saving benefits of chlorinated water, especially in preventing diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid. They also reassured the families that a slight change in the taste and smell of the water does not affect its safety. Such changes are normal, as chlorine from ILC devices disinfects water and makes it safe for drinking. The team convinced the Keer family that this water is safe for children and pregnant women.

The Gram Panchayat also organized community sensitization meetings in the village, explaining the benefits of safe drinking water. The Gram Sarpanch, along with Panchayat members mobilized the community to raise awareness about safe drinking water. They oriented community about importance of judicious use of water, water source strengthening, wastewater reuse in kitchen gardens and stopping littering plastics and other matter into water bodies for a clean sustainable environment. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including posters, played a crucial role in building trust and awareness among hesitant families.

Acceptance with Awareness

Through open dialogues, a new understanding began to emerge. The hesitant families began to understand how chlorinated water wasn't just about taste, but about life, health, and safety. They also began to appreciate how this simple technology was helping to conserve and protect local water sources by reducing contamination and the spread of waterborne diseases. Community also started keeping the water sources and PWSS sites clean, they are stepping ahead step by step towards water use efficiency. Through consistent meetings, trust-building, and community support, families like that of Sonu Keer's embraced chlorinated water completely. This transformation in community behaviour highlights the power of community sensitization and support. of the Gram Panchayat.

On the Path of Sustainability

Apart from creating awareness among the villagers about the benefits of safe drinking water, members of *Pani Samiti* and Self-Help Group (SHG) also made efforts to educate them on its proper usage and safe storage practices. They emphasized that clean water is a gift of nature, precious, limited, and life-sustaining. Mindless misuse or neglect can lead to depletion and contamination, making water unsafe for future generations. As rural communities like Deh adopt water disinfection technologies such as In-Line Chlorination, they are taking meaningful steps toward water

"Thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission, our village now has continuous water supply. Every household is free from water scarcity. The in-line chlorination (ILC) device ensures that the water is safe to drink, significantly reducing health issues in the village,"

says Shri Bhaiya Lal Navare, a responsible member from the community who supports awareness activities in the village.

Figure 15: Bhaiya Lal Navare, a responsible member from the community who helps in Community Engagement activities in the village | Source: Evidence Action

Figure 16: A Field Coordinator, Rahul Sharma, is talking to Sonu and explaining the benefits of safe drinking water | *Source: Evidence Action*

conservation and climate resilience. They also emphasized that groundwater levels are steadily declining, and it is crucial to conserve our water resources for future generations. To achieve this, we must ensure the water we consume is safe and used responsibly, reinforcing the message — ***Jal Hi Jeevan Hai*** **(Water is Life).**

This is more than just a success story about safe drinking water. It is a story of **community stewardship and environmental responsibility.** The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Pani Samiti, Self Help Group (SHG), and the local Gram Panchayat in Deh are now leading by example, promoting community sensitization and ownership of water, encouraging water-saving practices, and ensuring that every drop is valued. These local champions are restoring trust in public systems and strengthening the bond between people, the environment, and life.

Looking Ahead: A Model for Sustainable Rural India

Today, the families of the village understand the importance of safe drinking water and stand as a beacon of positive change. Their journey reminds us that change begins with awareness and is sustained through community effort and environmental mindfulness. As we strive for a more sustainable rural India, stories like these show how collective responsibility, smart technology, and environmental consciousness can ensure that every household not only has access to safe water but also learns to protect and preserve it, for today and for generations to come. **Water is not just a resource; it is life, health, and the heart of our environment. Let's use it wisely, protect it fiercely, and pass it on purely.**

This reflects the remarkable impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission in fostering community-driven change and participation. One village's shift from doubt to trust showcases the power of community dialogue, safe water practices, and environmental responsibility, proving that real change begins with awareness and collective action.

> ***"We initially had doubts about chlorinated water due to its medicinal smell and bitter taste. But after the Self-Help Group and Sarpanch explained how important this safe water was for our health, we started using it again—for drinking and all household needs. Now, we feel protected"***
>
> *- says a resident of Deh village*

Figure 17: A mother is helping her child to drink safe water | *Source: Evidence Action*

Empowering Rural Water Access:

Hybrid Solar and Remote Monitoring Success in Sarola Village, Pune, Maharashtra

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Introduction

Sarola village, situated in Bhor Taluka of Pune district, with a population of approximately 2000 plus, had long grappled with the challenge of consistent access to clean drinking water. Although a piped water supply system was established under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in 2020-21, drawing water from the nearby Nira River, its operations were frequently hampered by power-related issues. Specifically, non-payment of electricity bills led to operational failures, despite the infrastructure being intact.

To overcome this hurdle and ensure regular and sustainable water supply, the Zilla Parishad, Pune—with technical guidance from the Ground Water Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA), Maharashtra, and support from UNICEF—implemented a pilot project: a Hybrid Solar-based Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWS) integrated with a Remote Monitoring System (RMS). This project falls under Research and Development (R&D) and has not received direct funding from the Government of India.

Background and Challenges

The earlier water supply system sourced water from an existing well and borewell, but this proved insufficient to meet the daily requirement of 2,60,000 litres as per the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) norms (55 litres per capita per day). A new scheme was implemented using the Nira River. Water was lifted using a 5 HP pump from the river to a jack well, and another 5 HP pump moved water from the jack well to a treatment plant. Post-treatment, a 20 HP pump lifted the water to an Elevated Storage Reservoir (ESR) with a capacity of 2.5 lakh litres.

Initially, grid electricity was used to operate these pumps, with pumping

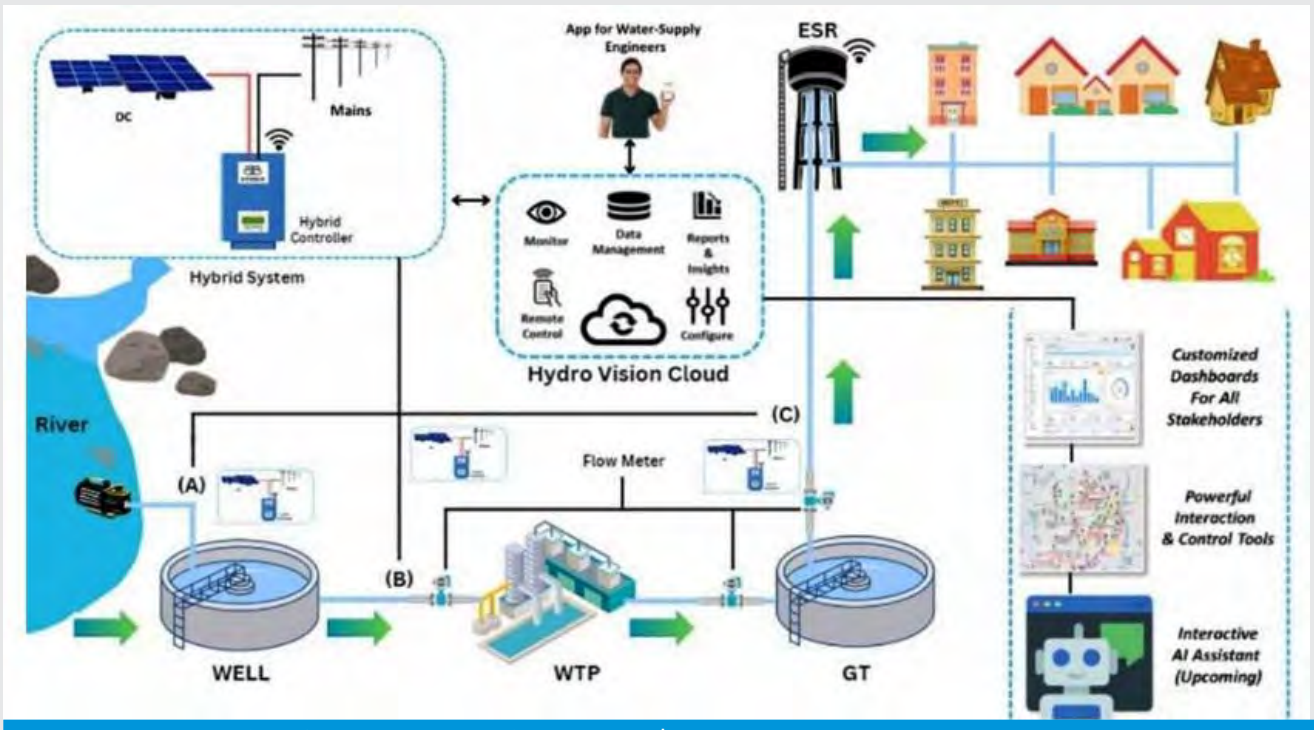

Figure 18: The Flow Chart of Hybrid Water System | *Source: Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Maharashtra*

hours averaging 10 hours for both 5 HP pumps and 8 hours for the 20 HP pumps. However, consistent issues in paying electricity bills to the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) led to delays and dysfunction in the water supply scheme. Before transitioning to the current hybrid system, the village had implemented a **net metering solar power system**, which allowed the Gram Panchayat to generate solar energy and export excess power back to the grid. While this system supported partial energy requirements, it still relied heavily on grid connectivity. Over time, due to non-payment issues and delays in obtaining necessary approvals from MSEDCL, especially the NOC, the system became unsustainable, prompting a shift toward the standalone hybrid solar solution.

Hybrid Solar System Innovation

Faced with the challenge of securing an NOC from MSEDCL due to outstanding bills, Zilla Parishad Pune consulted GSDA for alternative energy solutions. GSDA proposed the use of a **Hybrid Solar Power System**—a modern approach combining solar and grid energy.

The key technology component, a **Hybrid Controller**, allows solar energy to be the primary source of power during the daytime. When solar power is insufficient due to cloudy weather or at night, the system automatically supplements grid power. This blending of power sources ensures continuous operation of pumps and avoids interruptions.

Additionally, the system includes an **automatic solar panel cleaning sprinkler**, powered by the 5 HP solar-driven pump. This daily cleaning mechanism helps maintain the efficiency of solar panels by removing dust accumulation. However, solar efficiency drops to around **50% during monsoon**, although power generation continues based on photovoltaic rays.

Remote Monitoring System (RMS) Integration

To enhance the scheme's efficiency and transparency, a Remote Monitoring System (RMS) was also deployed. RMS enables real-time monitoring of several critical parameters:

- Solar power generation
- Grid power consumption
- Pump on/off time and discharge rates
- Water level in the storage tank
- Litres of water pumped daily
- Pumping hours
- Month-wise performance reports

These data points are accessible via computer or mobile through a dedicated web portal. Reports can be generated daily, monthly, or annually, making it easier for administrators to track performance and plan preventive maintenance.

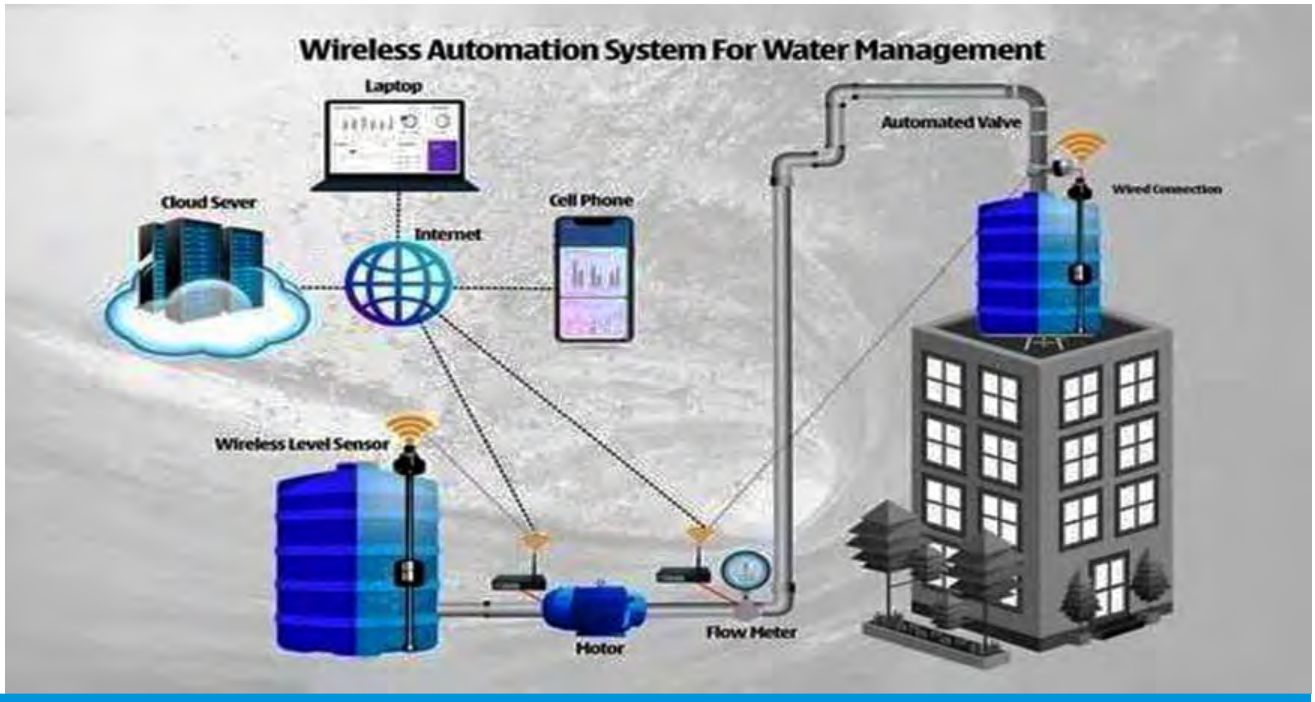

Figure 19: The Wireless Automation System of Water Management | *Source: Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Maharashtra*

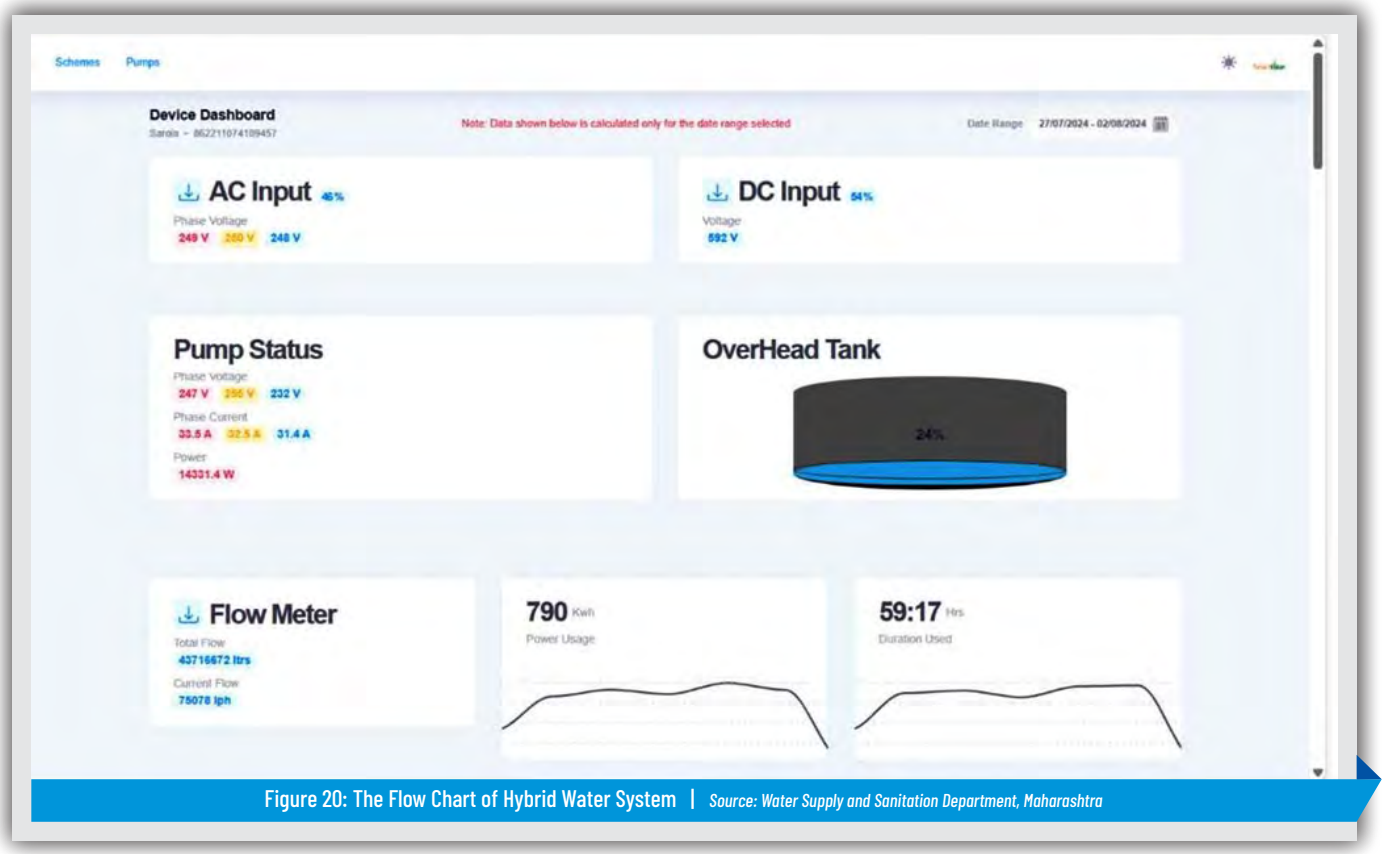

Figure 20: The Flow Chart of Hybrid Water System | *Source: Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Maharashtra*

Operation and Maintenance

An important feature of this project is that the **Gram Panchayat (GP) is solely responsible for its operation and maintenance**. This decentralization fosters local ownership, accountability, and sustainability of the system.

Solar and Grid Power Usage Summary

Below is the abstract data showing solar and grid power usage over a three-month period during the operation of the hybrid solar-based PWS scheme in Sarola village.

Advantages and Key Benefits

The integration of Hybrid Solar technology with RMS provided multiple benefits:

- **Operational Continuity:** Continuous water supply is maintained using blended power sources.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Significant savings in electricity costs through solar usage.
- **Predictive Maintenance:** Daily RMS data helps in identifying faults before they escalate, reducing downtime.
- **Reduced Manpower:** Automation through RMS reduces dependency on physical supervision.
- **No Water Wastage:** Smart monitoring ensures optimal water levels, avoiding overflow losses.
- **Policy Decision Support:** Centralized data collection aids in making evidence-based decisions.
- **Improved Solar Efficiency:** Daily sprinkler-based cleaning system keeps panels dust-free.

Month	Total Consumption kWh (Unit)	Grid Power Consumption kWh (Unit)	Solar Power Consumption kWh (Unit)	% Grid Power used	% Solar Power used	Monthly saving in Rs on Electricity Bills
April'24	3517.31	710.53	2806.77	24.2	75.8	28067.70
May'24	2372.34	268.83	2103.48	11.8	88.20	21034.80
June'24	2063.00	788.33	1247.67	48	52.00	12476.70

- **Community Ownership:** Gram Panchayat-led operations ensure long-term functionality.

Environmental Ecosystem Contribution

This initiative contributes significantly to the environmental and sustainability goals:

Positive Impacts

- **Renewable Energy Adoption**: It reduces dependency on grid electricity and promotes clean energy through solar power, cutting down carbon emissions.
- **Water Conservation**: RMS ensures optimal water usage, preventing wastage. The predictive maintenance reduces leakages and system failures.
- **Energy Efficiency**: Solar usage accounts for up to 88% of energy needs in peak months which is a substantial savings on electricity bills (e.g., ₹28,067 in April 2024).

Scope for Replication and Sustainability

Sarola's success story demonstrates the potential for replicating this model across other rural areas facing similar challenges. With solar panel infrastructure already present in Sarola village through Zilla Parishad support, supported this collaborative model, facilitating the introduction of hybrid solar and RMS systems. However, the high cost of solar panels remains a barrier for large-scale replication and must be addressed through funding or subsidies.

Conclusion

The pilot Hybrid Solar and RMS-based water supply system in Sarola village marks a transformative step toward sustainable, decentralized water management. It reflects the importance of innovation, inter-departmental coordination, and community-centric approaches in achieving the vision of **Har Ghar Jal** under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Reflections of a Better World

- Shailika Sinha, NJJM

Water. Environment. Life.
A smooth rhythm flows between them, binding us all.

A better world is not born from headlines. Neither is it built in a day, and certainly not by grand declarations alone. A better world begins in the simplest acts: a child drinking safe water from a tap without falling sick, a woman walking five minutes, not five kilometers, for her daily water, a community planting trees around a revived spring.

This is where Jal Jeevan Mission has made a difference, quietly and determinedly changing the face of rural India. Not with pipes and taps alone, but with purpose. Since 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission has brought functional taps to over 15 crore rural homes.

We often speak about climate change these days. About rising temperatures, erratic rains, and drying aquifers. But perhaps, not enough about hope. Jal Jeevan Mission, in its own steady way, is stitching hope into the landscape. Every tap connection in a remote village is a promise: that no child will have to skip play to carry pots on their head, that no farmer will watch his fields crack and die, that no woman will feel forgotten. Hope is a girl going to school every day. Hope is a mother who doesn't stay up worrying about her child's stomach infection from unsafe water. Hope is a young *Jal Doot* in a flood-hit village of Assam, carrying the message of water conservation with a heart full of determination.

Where do we humans stand in all this? Are we merely recipients of change — or are we its co-creators? The Jal Jeevan Mission is not just a government initiative. It is an invitation — for all of us — to participate. To reflect. To act.

Because behind every functional tap is not just engineering, but **empathy**. Behind every water-secure village is not just a pipeline, but **people** — who chose to care, to conserve, to lead.

The question is no longer what the world needs. The question is — **what will we choose to do about it?**

Each time we save a drop, educate a child, listen to a Jal Doot, support a VWSC, or even simply close a tap — we are standing on the side of the better world we claim to envision.

Water connects us. And perhaps, in that connection lies our greatest strength — and our greatest responsibility. When we protect it, we protect everything else — our soil, our trees, our health, and our dreams.

And this protection begins with awareness. With the practice of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, which ultimately leads to the Rejuvenation and Restoration of water sources. Schools play a critical role in nurturing this behaviour, from teaching children to take only as much water as they need, to instilling in them the understanding that every drop saved counts. The habits formed in young hearts today will shape our water security tomorrow.

Across India, stories are emerging, of resilience, of ownership, of sustainable choices.

Rain as a Resource - Sailam Village, Mizoram

Tucked away in Aibawk Block, 77 km from Aizawl, lies Sailam village, where water wisdom flows with the rain. Encouraged by the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC), all 171 residents have adopted rainwater harvesting as a community culture. Instead of watching the rain flow away, they collect, store, and reuse it for domestic needs.

Figure 21: VWSC of Saliam village, Aibawk Block, Aizawl District | *Source: Jal Jeevan Samvad, May 2024*

This initiative is not just about water security. It's about economics too. Despite following an incremental water tariff billing system, households in Sailam pay significantly less during the rainy season because of their smart use of rainwater.

Regular water user charges, community participation, and VWSC-led leadership have paved the path for institutional, financial, operational, and source sustainability. By integrating conservation into daily life, Sailam village showcases how responsible consumption is both practical and powerful.

Water Amid the Floods — Assam's Climate-Resilient WASH Interventions

Assam faces a relentless monsoon season every year, with floods that disrupt lives, wash away crops, and make access to clean water and sanitation a daily struggle. In response, Gramya Vikash Mancha (GVM), in partnership with WaterAid India and under the umbrella of Jal Jeevan Mission, has redefined what it means to build water-secure communities in disaster-prone regions.

Figure 22: VWSC of Saliam village, Aibawk Block, Aizawl District | *Source: Jal Jeevan Samvad, May 2024*

In districts like Kamrup (Rural), Barpeta, and Nalbari, they have introduced a suite of climate-adaptive WASH solutions, elevated handpumps and toilets, water treatment plants equipped with ATMs, portable water filters, and flood shelters with integrated hygiene facilities. These systems are designed to remain operational even when inundation strikes.

But the success here isn't just about engineering resilience. It is about community ownership. GVM has trained Self Help Group (SHG) federations, mobilised local youth, and established village water committees that oversee long-term sustainability. These efforts ensure that even in the face of ecological adversity, the promise of safe water and sanitation does not waver.

These stories are reflections of a better world — where development and sustainability walk hand in hand. Where every tap is not a pipe alone, but a promise. Where every village is not just a dot on the map, but a beacon of possibility. Environmental change doesn't always roar. Sometimes, it hums — in the sound of a tap turning on in a house that never had one before. And as citizens, every choice we make today — to save, to serve, to speak up for water, is a step toward the world we want to see. A world where water is respected, nature is nurtured, and life flows forward — drop by drop, act by act, together.

Scaling Up Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting in Odisha Schools:

Lessons learnt from Sustainable Water Management

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Introduction:

Ensuring reliable access to clean water in schools is crucial for sanitation, hygiene, and climate resilience. With unpredictable rainfall and declining groundwater levels, many regions struggle to maintain consistent water supply, affecting drinking water and hygiene practices. Schools face acute shortages, impacting student health and well-being. Implementing effective water conservation strategies is essential for safeguarding student health, promoting hygiene, and securing long-term water availability.

Water conservation not only provides immediate benefits but also transforms student awareness and behavior. By teaching children responsible water use, we instill lifelong habits, empowering them to contribute to environmental sustainability. Moreover, schools can serve as community models, inspiring households and institutions to adopt similar practices.

Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting (RTRWH) is a proven solution to address water scarcity in schools, providing a steady supply for sanitation, handwashing, and groundwater recharge. By reducing reliance on external sources, RTRWH enhances water security. To scale and sustain such initiatives, strong institutional support and well-defined policies are crucial. Strategic policy interventions, funding mechanisms, and long-term infrastructure planning can further bolster efforts, integrating water conservation into school management and climate adaptation strategies.

RTRWHS is a key method of rainwater harvesting and an essential component of sustainable water conservation in schools. Recognizing its significance in addressing water scarcity and climate resilience, the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, has emphasized its implementation nationwide. Accordingly, its mapping has been integrated into UDISE+, ensuring systematic tracking and execution in educational institutions. **RTRWHS not only secures water availability but also contributes to environmental sustainability by aiding groundwater recharge and reducing surface runoff. Its alignment with Jal Jeevan Mission reinforces efforts to provide assured water access through tap connections and improve climate resilience in schools.**

The linkage between RTRWHS and Jal Jeevan Mission reinforces the objective of long-term water security by ensuring schools have a reliable water supply through conservation, recharge mechanisms, and optimized utilization

In Odisha, the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) has played a pivotal role in driving RTRWHS initiatives across schools. By implementing structured models for rainwater collection, storage, and utilization, OSEPA has contributed significantly to enhancing water security and fostering environmental sustainability at the grassroots level.

Context of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting in Odisha Schools

Groundwater plays a vital role in water security, particularly in rural areas where it's the primary source of drinking water. With extensive spatial distribution, supported by eight major river basins and an average annual rainfall of 1,452 mm, groundwater remains a crucial resource for communities across the state. However, over-extraction and erratic rainfall patterns contribute to declining water tables.

Groundwater depletion majorly affecting schools' access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene. To address this RTRWH has emerged as an effective solution. Since 2021-22, UNICEF Odisha has collaborated with the Odisha State Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) to promote RTRWH in schools, enabling them to capture, filter, and store rainwater for sanitation and groundwater recharge. This initiative not only ensures water availability but also supports long-term climate adaptation strategies and fosters sustainable water management practices across Odisha.

Figure 23: Dr. (Prof) R K Panda from IIT, Bhubaneswar delivering speech during Training on RTRWH and WASH in school orientation program - October 2022 | *Source: UNICEF Odisha*

The year-wise data on rooftop rainwater harvesting structures (RTRWHS) in Odisha schools, as per OSEPA, reveals a significant increase in implementation over the years. In 2021-22, only 1,457 schools had RTRWHS, but by 2024-25, this number had grown to 35,078, demonstrating substantial progress in water conservation efforts. Ganjam leads in implementation with 3,037 schools equipped with RTRWHS, followed by Mayurbhanj (2,970) and Keonjhar (1,944). Other districts like Bhadrak, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur have also seen notable growth. The steady increase highlights the state's commitment to sustainability and institutional water security, ensuring better resilience against water shortages in schools.

Year-Wise Progress of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Structures (RTRWHS) As Per OSEPA					
No. Districts	No. of Govt' Schools (Elementary & Secondary)	Year-wise increase in the Number of Schools with RTRWHS			
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
30	48,542	1,457	26,792	32,250	35,078

Role of UNICEF in Water Securiry in Odisha schools

- Partnered with the Odisha State Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) since 2021 to promote the widespread adoption of RTRWH in schools.
- Engaged State & Mass Education Department (S&ME Dept.) engineers in technical orientation to strengthen RTRWH implementation and sustainability.
- Conducted five batches of training programs (Sept 28 – Oct 2, 2022) in collaboration with IIT Bhubaneswar, training 349 technical personnel on RTRWH design principles, construction techniques, and maintenance strategies to ensure a deep understanding of system functionality and upkeep among district engineers.
- Guided schools in developing structured action plans to establish and expand RTRWH infrastructure while facilitating effective fund mobilisation and stakeholder engagement to secure necessary resources.
- Introduced the Monthly Progress Report (MPR) framework to track implementation effectiveness while ensuring periodic evaluations that optimise water conservation practices and maintain system efficiency.
- Strengthened student-led bodies (School Cabinet & Eco Clubs) to foster school-level RTRWH management and awareness.
- Worked on aligning RTRWH within institutional policies, integrating it into the Climate Resilient School Action Plan (CR-SAP).
- Provided technical guidance to 102 schools participating in the National Water Awards, ensuring well-structured RTRWH planning and effective execution.

Celebrating Progress: Impact and Recognition

- Khairbani Ashram School in Mayurbhanj district secured third place at the 5th National Water Awards 2023 for its outstanding water conservation efforts
- Langleswar High School in Ganjam district successfully tackled groundwater challenges through collaborative support and funding from the Ground Water Division
- Badamaribhata Ashram School in Rayagada district leveraged ICICI Foundation's CSR initiatives to establish a sustainable water supply in its remote location.

Policy Framework Supporting RTRWH in Odisha

The Odisha government has launched the CHHATA Scheme (Community Harnessing and Harvesting Rainwater Artificially from Terrace to Aquifer) to institutionalise rooftop rainwater harvesting (RTRWH) across urban and rural landscapes. This initiative directly addresses water scarcity challenges by systematically integrating RTRWH into public and private infrastructure, including educational institutions.

The policy prioritises the installation of RTRWH systems in government and private buildings, ensuring that schools benefit from sustainable water conservation solutions. To drive adoption, the scheme offers financial subsidies, reducing installation costs for institutions and individuals. Additionally, stakeholders receive technical guidance, equipping them with the expertise needed for effective implementation and long-term maintenance.

Beyond immediate conservation efforts, CHHATA plays a crucial role in groundwater recharge, mitigating depletion and strengthening water security at a systemic level. To reinforce long-term sustainability, the Odisha government has partnered with UNICEF to integrate RTRWH into school infrastructure planning. This policy framework aligns with broader climate resilience strategies, ensuring that rainwater harvesting becomes an integral part of sustainable water management in educational institutions.

Figure 24: Mukesh Singh Collecting Water Tariff | *Source: Water Aid India*

Classification of Odisha's Regions for Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting (RTRWH)

To systematically integrate RTRWH across Odisha, the state has been strategically classified into distinct regions based on rainfall patterns, groundwater availability, and urbanisation levels. This classification aligns with the CHHATA scheme, which aims to enhance water security and groundwater recharge through targeted interventions.

Regional Classification

1. **Water-Stressed Blocks** – Odisha has identified **52 blocks with severe groundwater depletion** as priority areas for RTRWH interventions under the CHHATA scheme. These efforts ensure water conservation and long-term sustainability.

2. **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** – RTRWH implementation is actively underway across 27 urban local bodies, covering both government and private buildings to support urban water management and reduce dependence on groundwater sources.

> *"Rooftop rainwater harvesting is not just about collecting water; it's about nurturing a sustainable future. By capturing rain, we empower our schools and students to conserve resources, enhance learning, and take charge of their environment."*
>
> – Binita Dash, Headmistress. Khairbani Ashram School, Betnoti Block, Mayurbhanj

3. **Coastal Regions** – While these areas receive high annual rainfall, saline groundwater intrusion presents a significant challenge. RTRWH serves as a critical solution for freshwater conservation and aquifer recharge.

4. **Interior & Hilly Regions** – Characterised by moderate rainfall and heavy reliance on groundwater resources, RTRWH in these areas plays a vital role in aquifer replenishment and local water security.

5. **Institutional & School-Based RTRWH** – Schools across Odisha are incorporating RTRWH systems to enhance water security and sustainability, ensuring a dependable supply for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene.

Implementation Feasibility

According to the Ground Water Resource Assessment (GWRA) 2020, the planned RTRWH implementation includes **52 water-stressed blocks**, 1,925 government and 29,500 private buildings across 27 ULBs ensuring targeted water conservation efforts

This structured classification optimises rainwater harvesting interventions, reinforcing climate resilience and promoting long-term groundwater sustainability across Odisha.

Design and Implementation of RTRWH Systems

I. Structure and Components of RTRWH Systems

A **RTRWH system** comprises several interconnected components designed to efficiently **capture, store, and distribute rainwater** for various applications. The key elements include:

- **Catchment Area:** The rooftop of the school building serves as the primary surface for collecting rainwater. It must be **clean, smooth, and non-toxic** to ensure high water quality and prevent contamination.
- **Gutters and Downpipes:** Properly sized gutters and downpipes channel rainwater into storage units, **preventing overflow and optimising collection efficiency**. These components should be regularly inspected to ensure smooth water flow.
- **Filtration System:** Before storage, rainwater passes through **sand, charcoal, or mesh-based filters** to remove debris and impurities. Filtration ensures that the harvested water remains safe for sanitation and other non-potable uses.
- **Storage Tanks:** Rainwater is stored in **underground or overhead tanks** made of durable, non-contaminating materials. To maintain water quality, tanks must be **properly sealed and routinely cleaned** to prevent bacterial growth and sediment buildup.
- **Overflow and Recharge Mechanisms:** Excess rainwater is directed to **groundwater recharge pits** or repurposed for sanitation and irrigation. This ensures that unused water is effectively utilised rather than wasted.

Figure 25: Discussion with S Behera HM Panchayat High School Jamankira Sambalpur | *Source: UNICEF Odisha*

- **Distribution System:** Stored rainwater is connected to **handwashing stations, toilets, and irrigation networks,** ensuring a **reliable and efficient supply** where needed. Proper piping and flow management optimise water usage.

By integrating these components, RTRWH systems provide schools with a **sustainable water solution**, helping them navigate periods of scarcity while reinforcing climate resilience.

ii. Adaptations for Different Climatic Conditions

Since rainfall patterns vary across regions, RTRWH systems must be tailored to suit different climatic conditions, ensuring maximum efficiency and sustainability.

- **High Rainfall Areas:** Schools in regions with **consistent and abundant rainfall** should be equipped with **larger storage tanks** and **robust filtration systems** to manage the increased volume of collected water. Well-integrated **overflow mechanisms** are essential to prevent excess runoff while optimising **groundwater recharge**, ensuring surplus rainwater is effectively utilized.
- **Low Rainfall Areas:** In regions with **limited precipitation**, RTRWH systems must focus on **maximising collection efficiency and minimising wastage**. Incorporating **advanced filtration methods, deeper recharge pits, and reinforced storage tanks** helps retain and optimise available water resources, ensuring long-term usability despite scarce rainfall.
- **Dry and Arid Climates:** Schools in **arid zones** should adopt **evaporation-reduction techniques**, such as **covered storage tanks and underground reservoirs**, to minimize water loss. Additionally, **drip irrigation systems** can ensure **optimal water usage**, prevent unnecessary depletion and promote sustainable practices.
- **Coastal and Humid Regions:** RTRWH systems in **coastal areas** must be built using **corrosion-resistant materials** for **pipes and storage tanks**, as high humidity can accelerate deterioration. Furthermore, **saltwater intrusion prevention strategies** may be necessary for **groundwater recharge pits**, ensuring harvested rainwater remains uncontaminated and suitable for use.

Figure 26: RTRWHS Recharge Pit Langeswar High School Humma Burudi Ganjam | *Source: UNICEF Odisha*

iii. Best Practices for Installation and Maintenance

To ensure the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of **RTRWH systems**, schools must adhere to key installation and maintenance practices:

- **Quality Construction:** Using **high-grade materials** for tanks, pipes, and catchment surfaces helps prevent leaks and contamination. Proper **structural reinforcement** is essential, particularly for schools in regions experiencing **heavy rainfall or extreme weather conditions**, ensuring durability and reliability.
- **Regular Cleaning and Inspections:** Routine maintenance is critical to system efficiency. **Scheduled cleaning** of gutters, filters, and tanks prevents blockages and ensures the harvested water remains **safe and usable**. Schools should establish **inspection protocols** to detect potential issues early and prevent operational failures.
- **Community Involvement:** Active engagement of **students, teachers, and maintenance staff** in the upkeep of RTRWH systems fosters a sense of **ownership and responsibility**. Organising **training workshops** can educate stakeholders on proper usage, routine maintenance, and preventive measures, ensuring sustained system functionality.
- **Monitoring and Data Collection:** Implementing **basic monitoring systems** allows schools to track **water collection efficiency, usage trends, and maintenance requirements**. Regular evaluations and data-driven adjustments help **optimise future improvements**, ensuring continued effectiveness in changing environmental conditions.

- **Integration with Existing Infrastructure:** RTRWH systems must be strategically positioned to align with **existing pipelines and sanitation facilities**, ensuring seamless integration with **school operations**. Thoughtful **placement and design** minimise disruption while enhancing accessibility and usability.

By applying these best practices, schools can establish resilient water management systems, enhancing water security, climate adaptation, and long-term sustainability in educational institutions.

Impact on Schools and Communities

I. Water Security and Improved Sanitation

Reliable access to clean water is essential for maintaining sanitation and hygiene in schools. However, many regions in Odisha face frequent water shortages, disrupting daily activities and limiting the availability of drinking water and sanitation facilities. **RTRWH** offers a sustainable solution by harnessing rainwater locally, ensuring a steady and dependable water supply throughout the year.

Schools that implement RTRWH systems benefit from uninterrupted access to water for handwashing, toilet use, and cleaning, significantly improving hygiene standards and creating a healthier learning environment. RTRWH enhances institutional self-sufficiency, making schools more resilient to seasonal fluctuations in water availability. This approach not only addresses immediate needs but also strengthens long-term sustainability efforts in educational infrastructure.

ii. Contribution to Climate Resilience

Water conservation in schools is a vital component of institutional climate resilience, where erratic rainfall patterns and diminishing groundwater levels pose significant challenges. **RTRWH** provides a practical solution by enabling schools to collect, store, and efficiently use rainwater, ensuring a consistent supply even during dry seasons.

Beyond immediate water security, RTRWH systems play a critical role in **groundwater recharge**, helping to counter depletion and restore local aquifers. By embedding rainwater harvesting into educational infrastructure, schools contribute to broader **climate adaptation strategies,** reinforcing sustainable resource management while aligning with regional and national efforts to combat climate change.

> ***"Rooftop rainwater harvesting systems transform our schools into sustainable havens. By capturing and utilizing rainwater, we instil the values of conservation and resource management in our students. This practice promotes a healthier environment and empowers our school communities to actively participate in these efforts."***
>
> – Sujata Behera, Headmistress, Panchayat Government High School, Jamankira Block, Sambalpur

iii. Educational Benefits and Student Engagement

Beyond its practical benefits, **RTRWH in schools cultivates a culture of sustainability among students,** fostering environmental responsibility and awareness. By engaging in hands-on learning experiences, students gain a deeper understanding of rainwater harvesting, resource conservation, and the importance of responsible water management.

Schools that integrate RTRWH into their curricula provide students with opportunities to **monitor water usage, maintain harvesting systems, and assess the impact of conservation efforts.** These interactive activities not only enhance students' technical knowledge but also instill a sense of ownership and responsibility toward sustainable practices. As students become active participants in water conservation, they are empowered to **advocate for responsible water use within their communities,** helping to extend the impact beyond the school environment.

Moreover, schools serve as **influential models for surrounding households and institutions**, demonstrating the effectiveness of sustainable resource management. When students and educators embrace rainwater harvesting, they inspire broader community engagement, creating a **ripple effect that strengthens long-term sustainability efforts across local and regional levels.**

Challenges and Lessons Learned - Common Implementation Bottlenecks

While RTRWH offers significant benefits for schools, it also faces several challenges. Financial constraints are a primary bottleneck, as many schools struggle to afford installation costs. Existing subsidy programs are often insufficient, and

technical expertise and maintenance gaps hinder long-term viability. Limited awareness and stakeholder engagement also slow adoption, with many school administrators and communities unfamiliar with RTRWH's long-term benefits.

A key concern is the lack of monitoring mechanisms, leading to mismanagement and abandonment of RTRWH systems. Without concrete metrics, routine inspections and budget allocations for maintenance become difficult. Structured performance evaluations are essential to ensure system effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.

Climatic variability also poses a challenge, particularly in regions with erratic rainfall. Complementary approaches like groundwater recharge techniques and additional storage solutions can help ensure consistent water availability. To overcome these challenges, schools need financial support, technical training, and community engagement. A structured monitoring framework can demonstrate measurable benefits, reinforcing community participation and ensuring long-term sustainability

Strategies for Overcoming Challenges

To overcome financial barriers, schools can leverage government subsidies, corporate sponsorships, and environmental grants. Cost-effective RTRWH designs using locally sourced materials and simplified filtration techniques can reduce expenses. Technical challenges require capacity-building initiatives, including training for teachers, students, and maintenance personnel. Regular inspection and maintenance schedules ensure long-term functionality.

Community-driven programs, workshops, and educational campaigns can increase awareness and stakeholder engagement. Incorporating RTRWH into school curricula fosters a culture of sustainability. To address climatic variability, schools can integrate RTRWH with groundwater recharge techniques, install larger storage units, and implement water-efficient practices. By tailoring approaches to specific climate conditions, schools can enhance water conservation reliability and resilience.

Scaling Up and Future Prospects

I. **Convergence** - State governments, beyond their own programs, can integrate water conservation and rainwater harvesting initiatives within broader central schemes such as MGNREGS, PMKSY, Jal Jeevan Mission and AMRUT 2.0. These projects are designed through state-specific plans and implemented with central assistance. By strategically leveraging institutional frameworks and fostering cross-sector collaborations, RTRWH can be scaled effectively, ensuring sustained water security, strengthened climate resilience, and long-term environmental sustainability.

ii. **Institutional Integration and Policy Advocacy -** To effectively scale up RTRWH, it's essential to integrate it into institutional policies and educational frameworks. This requires well-defined regulatory guidelines, sustained funding, and technical support. Policy alignment with national and state education strategies is crucial. Odisha's CHHATA Scheme provides a foundation, but mandating RTRWH in school infrastructure policies would facilitate widespread adoption. Integrating RTRWH into environmental education fosters behavioral change and sustainability practices. Coordinated intergovernmental collaboration and capacity-building programs can strengthen institutional frameworks, transitioning RTRWH from a pilot initiative to a standard practice.

Conclusion:

Integrating RTRWH into school infrastructure is more than a water conservation effort—it is a strategic investment in sustainability, resilience, and student well-being. By capturing and utilising rainwater, schools can ensure a reliable supply of clean water for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene, minimising reliance on groundwater and external sources.

Beyond its immediate benefits, RTRWH serves as an educational tool, fostering environmental awareness among students and empowering them to advocate for sustainable practices within their communities. Schools play a pivotal role in shaping long-term conservation habits, extending the impact of water stewardship beyond campus boundaries.

With strong policy frameworks, institutional commitment, and scalable implementation, RTRWH can become a cornerstone of climate resilience, securing water sustainability for future generations. As Odisha advances innovative water management strategies, expanding RTRWH adoption reinforces the state's leadership in integrated, climate-adaptive solutions that support both education and environmental sustainability.

Reviving the Wells of Buxar: A Journey of Hope and Heritage

- Praveen Kumar; Kumar Gautam and Gautam Anand
INREM Foundation

Copy Edited By
Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

In the heartlands of Bihar, where tradition and resilience walk hand in hand, a quiet yet impactful transformation is taking place. The Jal Jeevan Hariyali Abhiyan, a state initiative to enhance water conservation and groundwater recharge, has breathed new life into one of the region's most time-honoured water sources—the village well.

In Buxar district, more than 3,200 wells have been revived under this initiative. These are not just physical structures brought back to life; they are symbols of community-led sustainability, of women's quiet leadership, and of the deep cultural reverence rural India holds for water.

The Wells Return to Life

Across villages in Simri Block—like Tilak Rai ka Hatta, Majharia, and Belaur—the programme has gone beyond just restoring wells. Comprehensive repairs were undertaken on over 1,200 wells, including structural strengthening, plastering of inner and outer surfaces, and creation of soak pits to manage water overflow. Small platforms were added near many wells to allow birds and animals access to clean water, promoting ecological balance.

Importantly, community engagement was central to the effort. Local residents, particularly women, played an active role—pulling up water, maintaining cleanliness around the wells, and using the water for drinking, cooking, and livestock during summer when handpumps often run dry.

Figure 27: Revival of a well that is colourfully decorated by community | Source: INRIM Foundation

Scientific Testing Meets Traditional Wisdom

To ensure the safety of the revived wells, water samples were tested by INREM Foundation along with community participation for arsenic, iron, and bacterial contamination using Field Testing Kits (FTKs). The results were encouraging—most wells met safe water standards. Yet, adoption remained a challenge.

Despite the clean water certification, many villagers hesitated. In some households, cultural beliefs, social norms, or distance from the home prevented women from using the wells. In others, access to piped water made wells seem unnecessary. A gap of perception, not just infrastructure, remains to be bridged.

Bringing Back Community Trust

INREM has supported water quality awareness in 12 villages across four blocks. Their focus has been to reconnect communities with traditional water sources, using science-backed evidence, participatory dialogue, and collaboration with Panchayati Raj institutions and CSOs.

In villages where awareness campaigns were coupled with community

Figure 28: Community reviving a well | *Source: INRIM Foundation*

ownership, the response was different. Women not only resumed drawing water from the wells but also began storing and using it confidently for household chores. Some households even preferred it during the dry months.

The symbolic value of wells in these villages cannot be overstated. Many families see them as sacred entities, surrounding them with Peepal, Neem or Ashoka trees, that helps absorbing of rain water thus contributing increase groundwater table, keep the water cool and shaded—both spiritually and scientifically sound practices. These spaces have once again become hubs of rural life.

The Road Ahead

The revival of wells in Buxar tells us a deeper story. Infrastructure alone cannot transform lives unless it is accompanied by behavioural change, community trust, and responsive governance.

While the physical revival of thousands of wells is a milestone, their regular use by villagers remains the next frontier. It requires more than repair—it needs belief, demonstration, and dialogue.

The initiative has already sparked renewed respect for wells, especially among women and the elderly, and stands today as an example of convergence between tradition and science. In the villages of Buxar, a new water culture is emerging—quietly, organically, and powerfully.

Let the story of these wells serve as a beacon for other districts where groundwater contamination is high, and solutions lie not only beneath the earth but in the hearts of the people who draw from it.

Figure 29: A well revived to store rain water with a hand pump, water used for cattle and other allied activities | *Source: INRIM Foundation*

Water, Environment & Life:
A Practical Interconnection in Wokha District

- Chuba Longchar
(District Co-ordinator, Wokha)
WSSO, PHED Nagaland

Copy Edited By
Lopamudra Panda & Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

Water plays a critical role in maintaining the health of ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable development in Wokha District. Its availability and quality directly impact agricultural productivity, the natural environment, and the well-being of local communities. This article highlights how water contributes to ecological balance in Wokha and how local initiatives under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and related programs are addressing key concerns in water conservation and ecosystem management.

Clean Water and Ecosystem Health in Wokha

Access to clean water is essential not only for people but also for sustaining plant and animal life. In areas of Wokha District such as Etsutchukha, Wokha Town Water Source, where natural water source remain relatively undisturbed, native plant species and wildlife still thrive. These include medicinal herbs, aquatic plants, frogs, insects, and birds that depend on healthy water bodies to complete their life cycles.

However, in certain pockets where water bodies have become polluted—often due to household waste, livestock runoff, or chemical use—there has been a noticeable decline in insect and amphibian populations, followed by birds and other species. Encouragingly, targeted interventions and source protection efforts have shown signs of ecological recovery, with a gradual return of aquatic life and native vegetation in areas where water quality has improved.

River Rejuvenation: Local Interventions in Wokha

Community-driven initiatives in Wokha District are playing a key role in restoring degraded water bodies. One notable example is near the Doyang River, where villages like Lotsu and Pangti have actively contributed to the rejuvenation of the river ecosystem. While the dam itself was constructed by the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), local residents guided and supported by various Departments mobilized to curb unsustainable practices and encroachment along the riverbanks.

These efforts helped regulate the seasonal flow of the river, which had become erratic. Fish populations began to reappear, and farmers reported improved soil moisture for agriculture. Community elders played a key role by advocating for forest conservation in upstream areas, while youth groups carried out awareness campaigns on water conservation. This underscores how technical support combined with grassroots involvement can effectively rejuvenate rivers.

Figure 30: Community Participation in cleaning of Natural/ Traditional Wells | Source: WSSO, PHED Nagaland

Figure 31: Community Leaders and Officers releasing fingerlings into Doyang River | *Source: WSSO, PHED Nagaland*

Reviving Traditional Water Bodies in Wokha Villages

Traditional water storage systems like community ponds have long been a part of village life in Wokha. These not only store water for human and livestock use but also support biodiversity. In *Elumyo* and *Sungro* villages, traditional ponds have recently been restored as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission's water source sustainability component.

Work included cleaning, de-silting, fencing, and replanting of native aquatic vegetation. The restored ponds quickly began to support aquatic insects, frogs, and waterfowl, indicating a revitalized micro-ecosystem. These small but significant efforts emphasize the importance of conserving age-old community water systems, which hold both cultural and environmental value.

Conclusion

Water is at the heart of sustainable development in Wokha District. It supports human needs, sustains agriculture, and underpins local ecosystems. Ensuring clean, well-managed water sources is essential for maintaining ecological balance, conserving biodiversity, and building resilience to climate variability.

Jal Jeevan Mission, while focused on achieving Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), also stresses the importance of source sustainability and participatory management. Wokha's initiatives river rejuvenation, and traditional/ natural water body restoration showcase the district's commitment to water conservation. These community-driven efforts, strengthened by technical guidance, prove that sustainable water management and environmental health can go hand in hand.

Figure 32: Beauty of Doyang River | *Source: WSSO, PHED Nagaland*

1st Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Nepal

- Amit Ranjan
NPMU-NJJM

Additional Secretary & Mission Director, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply, Govt. of Nepal co-chaired the "1st Joint Working Group Meeting" on 20.06.2025 at CGO Complex, New Delhi in reference with MoU signed between India and Nepal.

At the outset, AS&MD-DDWS who led the proceedings on behalf of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India; welcomed the Nepalese delegation and set the context for the meeting, highlighting the importance of bilateral cooperation in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) sector including waste management.

During the deliberations, DDWS officials highlighted the status and progress of flagship initiatives Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen. Representative from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) delivered a detailed presentation on the "Ground Water Scenario in India and Potential Areas of Cooperation."

Further, the Nepalese delegation shared a comprehensive presentation titled "Insights into Water Supply and Sanitation in Nepal", outlining ongoing efforts, achievements, challenges, and the way forward in achieving successful WaSH services.

This inaugural Joint Working Group meeting was convened under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Nepal to facilitate WaSH Sector including Waste management under the principles of equality and mutual benefit, complying with respective national laws and regulations.

The comprehensive MoU outlines a collaborative framework encompassing Capacity Building, Technology & Knowledge Transfer and Groundwater Management, etc

Officials from the Embassy of Nepal in India and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were also present during the meeting.

Figure 33-34: DDWS Officials and Nepal delegates during 1st joint meeting | *Source: NJJM*

Stop Diarrhoea Campaign 2025: DDWS Joins Hands with Key Ministries

- Amit Ranjan
NPMU-NJJM
Shailika Sinha
NJJM

In order to support, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Annual Campaign, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) has joined hands with key ministries to roll out the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2025, aimed at preventing childhood diarrhoeal deaths and improving hygiene and sanitation outcomes at scale.

The campaign launched on 20th June and will run till 31st July 2025, the campaign reinforces a multi-sectoral PPT strategy – Protect, Prevent, Treat, with the slogan: *"डायरिया की रोकथाम, सफाई और ओआरएस से रखें अपना ध्यान"* ("Stop Diarrhoea with Cleanliness and ORS—Stay Alert, Stay Healthy").

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare followed the inaugural campaign hashtag i.e, #StopDiarrhoeaCampaign where in, DDWS's campaign hashtag- #DDWSJoinsStopDiarrhoea.

DDWS is playing a crucial role by ensuring access to safe drinking water, functional tap connections, water quality monitoring, and promoting behavioral change communication (BCC) at the grassroots level. The campaign **"Swachh Gaon, Shudh Jal- Behtar Kal"** coined by DDWS comprises of activities which are being implemented across villages, schools, Anganwadi Centres and health facilities, with focus on:

- Regular potable water supply in schools and Anganwadi centres
- Water testing and ensuring bacteriological safety
- Clean toilet infrastructure and sanitation drives
- Mobilisation through VWSCs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- Public outreach via IEC campaigns, wall paintings, nukkad nataks, and radio broadcasts

As part of the campaign, Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) are being activated to coordinate with Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs), ensuring joint planning, community participation and

ownership. Some of the campaign tweets are mentioned below:

In this regard, measurable indicators have been defined for all ministries to track progress. For DDWS, these include:

- % Schools/Anganwadi with regular potable water supply
- % households with functional tap water supply
- % community-led IEC events on safe water & hygiene conducted against planned
- % villages with water quality tests conducted
- % of water samples meeting bacteriological safety standards

States and Union Territories have been advised to conduct district and block-level reviews, undertake interdepartmental task force meetings, and ensure convergence of all activities for effective implementation.

The campaign underscores the importance of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in preventing diarrhoeal disease, especially among children under five years. It highlights the transformative impact of coordinated governance and community engagement on public health.

DDWS reaffirms its commitment to the Government of India's vision of "Har Ghar Jal, Swachh Gaon" and calls upon all stakeholders to ensure active participation in the campaign to make diarrhoea-related deaths preventable, treatable, and ultimately history.

Winner Announcement for Tap Water – Safe Water Awareness Challenge

- Amit Ranjan
NPMU-NJJM

We at the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, in collaboration with **MyGov**, hosted the **Tap Water – Safe Water Awareness Challenge** from **29th July 2024 to 30th October 2024**.

Through this citizen-centric initiative, we invited participants to submit innovative multimedia campaign ideas aimed at promoting awareness about clean and safe drinking water, in alignment with the objectives of the **Jal Jeevan Mission – Innovate India**.

We received an overwhelming response with **280 entries**. After a thorough evaluation based on creativity, relevance, and potential impact, our committee shortlisted **seven (07) outstanding entries**. We are pleased to announce the winners:

- **Priyansh Chhatrola** – User ID: 63543204
- **Aman Tripathi** – User ID: 154447373
- **Ashwin Raj** – User ID: 154322473
- **Pulkit Maggo** – User ID: 154269193
- **Dr. Deepti Pande Rana** – User ID: 40253024
- **Minakshee Sharma** – User ID: 156461573
- **SkTotabul** – User ID: 155277933

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all participants for their enthusiastic response and creative contributions. Your commitment to the cause of safe drinking water inspires us and strengthens our mission. Thank you once again for being a part of this important initiative. Click here to access the annoucement page.

blog.mygov.in/winner-announcement-for-tap-water-safe-water-awareness-challenge/

Press Conference by Minister of Jal Shakti

Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti chaired a Press Conference on 11 Years of Government and progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission & Swachh Bharat Mission-Grammen on 26th June, 2025 at National Media Center, New Delhi.

Figure 35: Hon'ble Union Minister during Press Conference at NMC, New Delhi | *Source: NJJM*

Book Release

Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti unveiled Har Ghar Jal, Sabka Haq in the presence of Secretary, DDWS and head of Diamond Toons at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi. Chacha Chaudhary becomes a Water Warrior! "Chacha Chaudhary—Har Ghar Jal, Sabka Haq" comics developed to inspire kids and youth about water conservation.

Figure 36: Launch of Har Ghar Jal- Sabka Haq Comics at SS Bhawan | *Source: NJJM*

Review Meeting - Maharashtra

Secretary, DDWS; chaired a review meeting to see the implementation status and progress of works done under **Jal Jeevan Mission** & SBM(G) on 02.06.2025 at WSSD Office, Mumbai. During the meeting, State made a brief presentation on status of IHHL & CSC, Tap water, SWM, PWM, greywater management, key initiatives of SWSM and success stories of both the flagship programme.

Secretary-DDWS laid emphasis on strengthening VWSCs, Digital IT based integration for monitoring, conduct regular DWSM meetings, water quality, branding, waste water management, accelerate GOBARdhan implementation, improve FSM, and engage schools/ panchayats for awareness generation, etc. The meeting was attended by Pr. Secretary, **Maharashtra,** MD-SWSM; AMD-SWSM; and HOD's of all departments of JJM & SBM(G).

Figure 37: Secretary, DDWS with Officials of Maharashtra during the review meeting | *Source: NJJM*

Field Visit of Secretary, DDWS to Kerala

On his two day tour to Kerala, Sh. Ashok K K Meena, Secretary, DDWS visited Water Supply Schemes, OHT, Plastic Waste Management Units, PWM sheds, etc in Thuckalay and Agastheeswaram villages in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu on 20.06.205 (day-1). During his visit he interacted with beneficiaries, met with Master Trainer on site who was providing training to SHG women, Sanitation workers, and local communities to know the impact of #JalJeevanMission and #SBMG.

His **day-1** visit was accompained by DC, District Project Director and other state officials. On **day-2,** he visited Athiyannoor Block, Trivandrum, Kerala today to see the on-ground progress and implementation status of #JalJeevanMission and #SwachhBharatMisssion Grameen. During his visit, he saw Water Treatment Plant, NABL WQ District Lab, and interacted with JJM beneficiary.

He also visited SBM Grameen assets and interacted with elected members of Kottukal GP. While meeting with local village community, he understood the functioning of Gram Panchayath on various schemes especially on sanitation, waste collection through Harithakarma sena.

Further, he saw Swachhata Green leaf rated tourism entity Nikhi's Nest at Azhimala and had a discussion with its promotors followed by visit to STP, Biogas plant, MCF, met with SBMG beneficiary and released SSG 2025 poster with state officials. He was accompanied by key officials from State and District.

Figure 38-39: Launch of Swachh Sujal Gaon Survey poster with district officails during the field visit | *Source: NJJM*

Field Visit of Secretary, DDWS to Maharashtra

Secretary, DDWS visited PMJANMAN villages in Mokhada, Palghar, Maharashtra on 1st June, 2025 to review rural sanitation and water supply under SBMG and Jal Jeevan Mission.He visited the completed Jackwell of the Mokhada MVS Bulk Water Supply Scheme - commissioned in March 2025 - and currently supplying drinking water to 28 tribal villages.

He visited the pumping station, SCADA & IoT systems, and stressed on maintaining digital records for effective monitoring. A live demo of FTK testing by VWSC members showcased local capacity-building. He also interacted with the community, highlighting the importance of ODF Plus Model, sustainable sanitation, and people's participation in building a Swachh Bharat with Har Ghar Jal.

Figure 40-41: Secretary, DDWS and State officails at field visit and interaction with JJM beneficiary | *Source: NJJM*

Field visit AS&MD, DDWS to Himachal Pradesh

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-DDWS chaired a meeting on 06.06.2025 with Jal Shakti & RD Department, **Himachal Pradesh** to review the status and progress of **Jal Jeevan Mission** & **SBMG**.

During the meeting, emphasis was made on potable water delivery, monitoring of schemes through technology, activation of DWSM accounts for effective implementation, ground-truthing, etc.

He also visited Bharyal village Water Supply Scheme, and interacted with Gram Pradhan, Vice Pradhan & PRI members to know the actual benefits of the missions. From the State, E-In-C, CE, Directors, and other State officials accompanied the visit.

Figure 42: AS&MD-NJJM with State officials during the review meeting | Source: NJJM

JJM Samvad with DM/ DCs

In continuation with Jal Jeevan Mission-SAMVAD with DMs/DCs of States/ UTs, AS&MD-NJJM chaired 21st JJM Samvad meeting with DMs/ DCs of 26 districts of Chhattisgarh and Punjab, held on 19.06.2025 via VC to review the progress and implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. He emphasized the importance of conducting regular DWSM and DISHA meetings, achieving saturation of schemes under PM-JANMAN/DA-JGUA, reconciling data for schools & AWCs, updating PM Gati Shakti data, strengthening monitoring, source sustainability, and leading the SSG2025 initiative.

So far, more than 525 DMs/ DCs have participated in JJM Samvad. The meeting was attended by state authorities, along with the concerned area officer and other key officials from NJJM.

Figure 43: AS&MD-NJJM during the interaction with DMs/DCs of State | *Source: NJJM*

DDWS participated in International Day of Yoga

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग ने जल शक्ति मंत्रालय द्वारा विश्व योग दिवस के अवसर पर दिल्ली में यमुना नदी के तट पर आयोजित विशेष योग सत्र में नागरिकों, विद्यार्थियों, जल योद्धाओं तथा अन्य अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों के साथ भाग लिया।

Glimpses of Jal Jeevan Samvad with DM/ DCs

Figure 44-45: AS&MD-NJJM chaired 20th #JJMSamvad meeting with DMs/ DCs of 30 districts of #Gujarat and #MadhyaPradesh, held on 18.06.2025 via VC to review the progress and implementation of the #JalJeevanMission.

Figure 46: 15th virtual #JJMSamvad with DMs/ DCs of #TamilNadu and #JammuAndKashmir was chaired by Secretary-DDWS on 04.06.2025 to review the progress and implementation of #JalJeevanMission.

Figure 47: The AS&MD-NJJM chaired the 19th #JJMSamvad meeting with DMs/DCs of 25 districts of Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur and Tamil Nadu, held on 11.6.2025 via VC to review the progress and implementation of #JalJeevanMission.

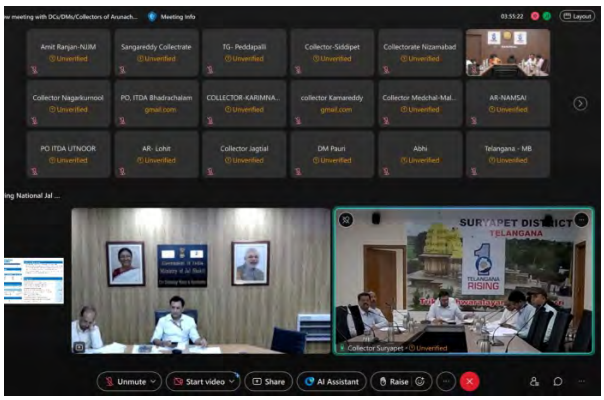

Figure 48-49: "DMs/DCs are our working hands at the field level for effective implementation of programme."- AS&MD-NJJM said during 18th #JJMSamvad meeting held on 10.06.2025 to review the progress of #JalJeevanMission in #ArunachalPradesh, #Telangana and #Uttarakhand.

Glimpses of Jal Jeevan Samvad with DM/ DCs

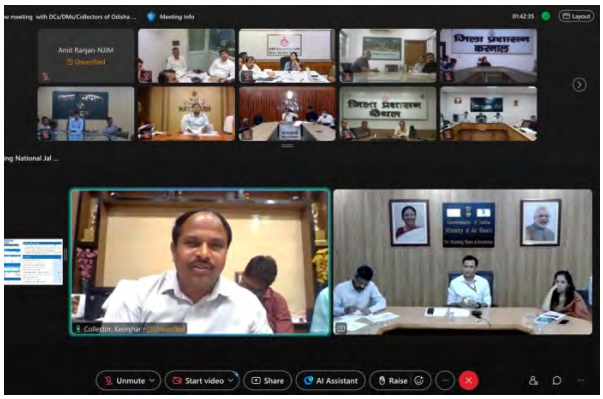

Figure 50-51: "The DWSM Dashboard especially developed for DMs/ DCs will help in monitoring the scheme instantly," AS&MD said during the 17th virtual #JJMSamvad held with DMs/ DCs of #Haryana and #Odisha on 10.06.2025 to review the progress and implementation of JJM.

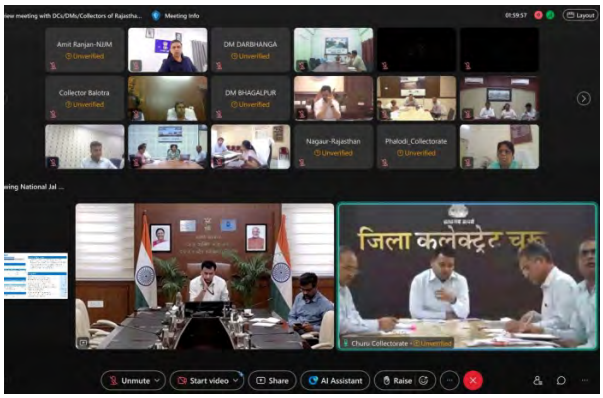

Figure 52-53: "The role of DMs/ DCs are critical for ensuring rural pipe water supply schemes sustained on the long term basis." - AS&MD said during the 16th virtual #JJMSamvad held with DMs/ DCs of #Rajasthan, #Manipur, and #Bihar on 04.06.2025 to review the progress and implementation of JJM.

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