

# Jal Jeevan Samvad

September | Volume 6 | Issue 09 | Year 2025



Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership  
Changing Lives

Theme: Sarpanch as  
WASH Champions



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# Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

विकसित भारत का बहुत बड़ा आधार है भारत की सशक्त महिलायें।  
हमने महिलाओं के लिए करोड़ों शौचालय बनवाए, ताकि उन्हें खुले में शौच से मुक्ति मिले...  
...हमने पीने के साफ़ पानी का संकट खतम करने के लिए, हर घर जल योजना चलाई।

- 02 सितम्बर, बिहार राज्य जीविका निधि साख सहकारी संघ लिमिटेड के शुभारंभ पर प्रधानमंत्री के संबोधन का अंश

*Our mothers and sisters used to face many difficulties in obtaining water. Therefore, we launched the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' (Tap Water to Every Household) scheme to address this issue. In recent years, more than 15 crore citizens across the country have gained access to tap water. In Manipur, only 25,000 to 30,000 households had piped water connections just 7-8 years ago. Today, more than 350,000 households here have access to tap water. I am confident that every family in Manipur will receive piped water in their homes very soon.*

- Hon'ble PM at the laying of foundation stone of various development works at Churachandpur, Manipur, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

”



# Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



**C R Patil**

Minister of Jal Shakti

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी सर के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में भारत ने जल प्रबंधन और जल आपूर्ति के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति कर वैश्विक स्तर पर एक मजबूत पहचान बनाई है।

नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता प्रो. माइकल क्रेमर ने जल जीवन मिशन की प्रगति की सराहना करते हुए इसे “भारत की ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि” और “पूरे विश्व के लिए एक अनुकरणीय मॉडल” बताया, जिससे दुनिया प्रेरणा ले सकती है।

ये भारत की वैश्विक उपलब्धि है।

- जल जीवन मिशन के 6 वर्षों की उपलब्धि पर सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म पर किया गया सन्देश





## Foreword



**T**he Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen represent a transformative shift in rural development, where infrastructure is not an end in itself but a means to ensure dignity, equity, and sustainability. By placing communities at the centre and enabling local institutions to take charge, these programmes are redefining the foundations of public health and rural prosperity.

The recent Swachhata Hi Seva – Swachhotsav campaign once again demonstrated the strength of collective participation. Millions of citizens across villages came forward in a fortnight of action, affirming that sanitation, hygiene, and water security are not seasonal campaigns but daily practices integral to healthy and dignified living. This spirit of *jan bhagidari* is the foundation upon which we build our vision for a Swachh Sujjal Bharat.

This issue of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* is dedicated to recognising the leadership of sarpanches as WASH champions. The sarpanch, as the elected head of the Gram Panchayat, is both a custodian of democratic mandate and a steward of community trust. It is through their leadership that Village Water and Sanitation Committees are energised, user charges are mobilised, sources are protected, and sanitation is sustained. Their interventions illustrate how national policies find expression in local realities.

Water and sanitation are the very cornerstones of rural well-being, ensuring healthier families, prosperous communities, and a cleaner environment. The Government of India remains steadfast in its commitment to this cause, adopting a proactive approach with emphasis on long-term sustainability. As we transition from access to management, the focus has now shifted to Operation and Maintenance (O&M), source sustainability, and institutional strengthening, with *jan bhagidari* at the centre of every effort.

As we move forward, it is imperative that we continue to strengthen capacities, deepen partnerships, and enable sarpanches to lead with vision and accountability. Their leadership is central to achieving the goals of universal access to drinking water and sanitation. The alignment of national vision and grassroots leadership is ensuring that the gains of today are safeguarded for generations to come.

I commend the efforts captured in these pages, and I invite readers to reflect on them as examples of the resilience and ingenuity that define rural India.

**Ashok K. K. Meena**  
Secretary,

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation





Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...



The month gone by has been both significant and inspiring for the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The launch of the *Swachhata Hi Seva – Swachhotsav* campaign set in motion a fortnight of community-driven activities across the country, centred on water, sanitation, and collective responsibility. From cleanliness workshops and waste collection drives to eco-friendly celebrations of festivals and awareness campaigns, the initiative reinforced that sanitation and hygiene are integral to dignity, health, and sustainable development, and must be embraced as part of our everyday lives.

It is equally heartening to note that under Jal Jeevan Mission, safe drinking water is now reaching the remotest corners, including habitations in some of the most extreme climatic conditions. During my visit to Ladakh this month, a region where geographical isolation, severe winters, and sparse populations test the limits of service delivery, I witnessed this progress first-hand. In high-altitude villages, where temperatures fall below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and distances are measured by mountain passes, communities are sustaining and innovating to secure their water future. These are powerful demonstrations of how communities can lead when provided direction and support.

Within this larger frame, the theme of this edition, 'Sarpanch as WASH Champions', resonates strongly. Across the country, sarpanches are at the forefront of translating national vision into local reality. They mobilise households, anchor VWSCs, ensure data transparency through platforms such as e-Gram Swaraj, and balance community ownership with institutional accountability.

The stories featured in this issue bring these roles to life. In Bagdi Turk, under the leadership of a woman sarpanch, a once-inactive water committee was revived, water tariffs were streamlined, and new recharge structures created, ensuring both sustainability and transparency. In Chelai, the sarpanch led efforts to restore old water bodies and construct new check dams and ponds, improving groundwater recharge and providing lasting relief from summer scarcity. These examples reflect a wider pattern across rural India: when local leadership is capacitated and trusted, it becomes the true engine of transformation.

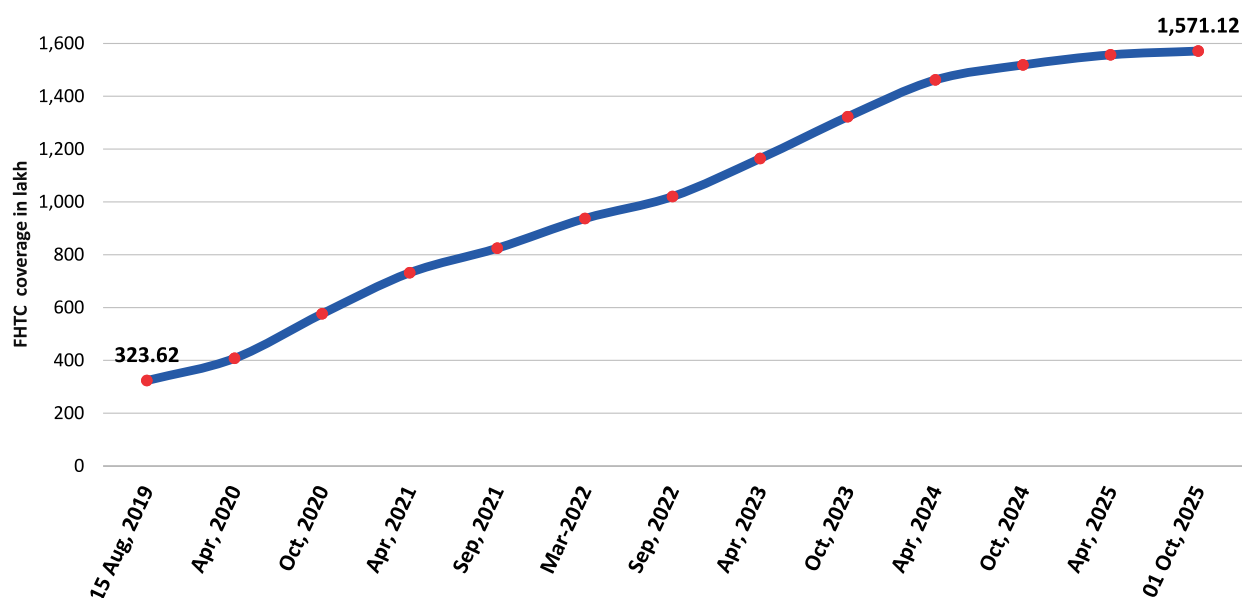
As you turn the pages of this issue, you will encounter more such stories of sarpanches leading from the front – crafting solutions, mobilising communities, and steering their villages towards a water-secure and sustainable future. Their journeys remind us that the success of JJM and SBM-G ultimately rests on the strength of community leadership and the spirit of *jan bhagidari*.

Wishing you an engaging and insightful read!

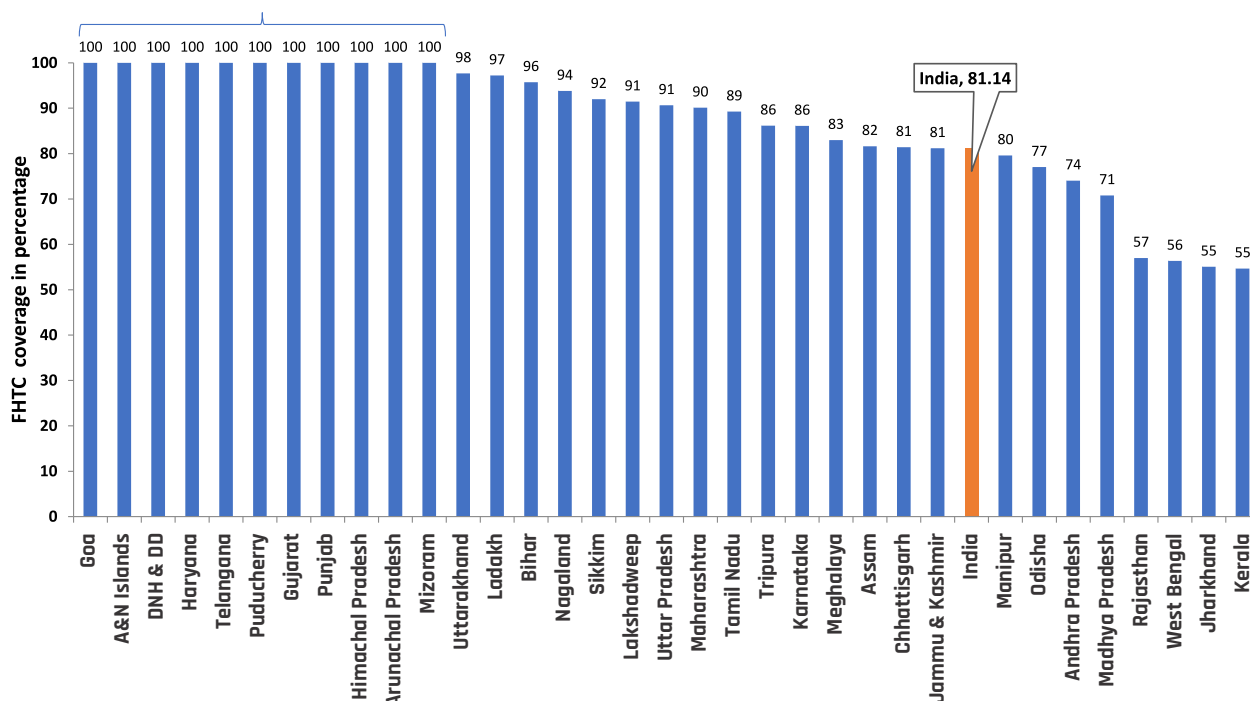
**Kamal Kishore Soan**

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

## Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 30.09.2025)



## Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 30.09.2025)

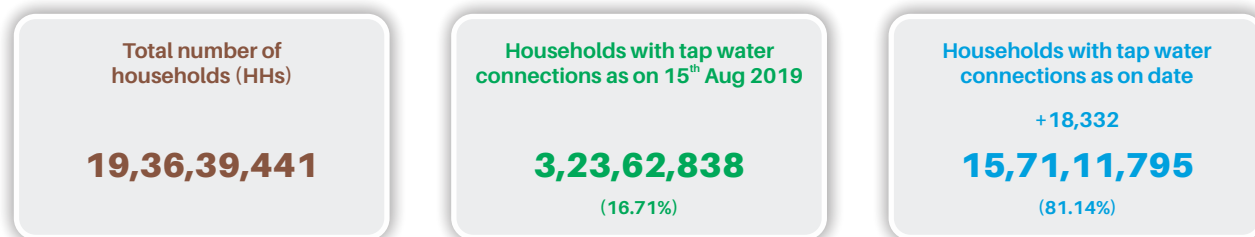




# As on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

Source: JJM-IMIS

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



Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

**12,47,48,957** (77.35%)

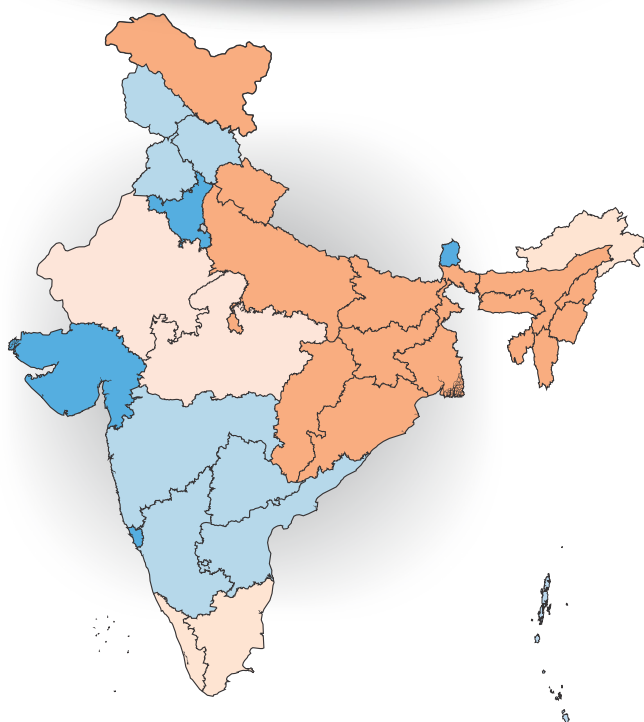
### Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

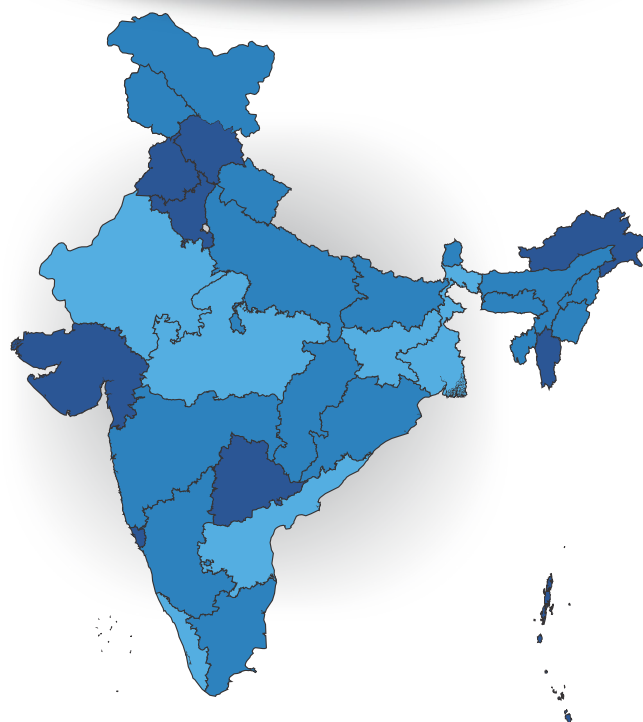
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat



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



As on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025



0 to <10%

10% to <25%

25% to <50%

50% to <75%

75% to <100%

100%

# जल संकट से स्थायित्व की ओर

- सुनील पाल, Water Aid India, Dhar

## प्रस्तावना

मध्य प्रदेश के जिला धार के आदिवासी बहुल ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में गर्मियों के दौरान जल संकट एक प्रमुख चुनौती बनकर सामने आता है। अप्रैल माह शुरू होते ही नल-जल योजना के पेयजल स्रोत सहित अन्य स्रोतों का जल स्तर नीचे जाना शुरू हो जाता है और अप्रैल – मई तक आते-आते गाँवों के अधिकांश स्रोत सूख जाते हैं। विशेष चिंता की बात यह है कि नल-जल योजना के स्रोतों का स्तर कम होने से पीने के पानी के लिए भी समुदाय को गंभीर दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

लेकिन जब समुदाय के नेतृत्व, ग्राम पंचायत और गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं के सहयोग से प्रयास किए जाते हैं तो स्थायी समाधान भी संभव हो जाते हैं। चेलाई गाँव की कहानी इसी परिवर्तनकारी यात्रा को दर्शाती है, जहाँ सरपंच रामसिंह डावर जी के

नेतृत्व और वाटरएड इंडिया के सहयोग से जल संरक्षण की पहल शुरू हुई।

## पृष्ठभूमि

जिला धार का आदिवासी बहुल ग्राम चेलाई, जो जिला मुख्यालय से लगभग 42 किमी दूर स्थित है, में कुल जनसंख्या 1,279 और 167 परिवार हैं। इनमें से वर्तमान में 114 परिवारों को नियमित पानी मिल रहा है, जबकि एक फलिया के 53 परिवार अब भी वंचित हैं। हर साल अप्रैल से जून के बीच नल-जल योजना के पेयजल स्रोतों सहित अन्य स्रोतों का जल स्तर गिरने से समुदाय गंभीर जल संकट से जूझता रहा है। इससे न केवल घरेलू उपयोग और पीने के पानी की समस्या होती है, बल्कि कृषि कार्य भी प्रभावित होते हैं।

हालाँकि, गाँव में पर्याप्त वर्षा होती है, लेकिन जल संरक्षण संरचनाओं की कमी के कारण भूजल

जल्दी समाप्त हो जाता था। यह स्थिति सरपंच और ग्राम पंचायत के लिए गहन चिंतन और प्रयास का विषय बनी।

“

“समुदाय की पहल पर ग्राम सभा में आए जल संबंधी मुद्दों को हमने ग्राम कार्य योजना में शामिल किया और समय पर कार्य पूरे किए। अब संरचनाओं में पानी भरना शुरू हो गया है, जिससे गाँव का जलस्तर बढ़ रहा है।”

- राजेंद्र जी,  
सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत

”



Figure 1: सरपंच रामसिंह जी की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित ग्राम पंचायत स्तरीय बैठक | स्रोत: वाटर एड इंडिया





Figure 2-3: जल पुनर्भरण संरचना: चेक डैम और तालाब | स्रोत: वाटर ऐंड इंडिया

“

“हर साल गर्मियों में पानी की भारी दिक्कत होती थी, लेकिन इस साल पंचायत ने पानी बचाने के बड़े प्रयास किए हैं। हमें उम्मीद है कि आने वाली गर्मियों में पीने के पानी की समस्या नहीं होगी।”

- सुकली डार, समुदाय

”

### हस्तक्षेप

गाँव की स्थिति में बदलाव तब आया जब वाटरएंड इंडिया की टीम ने चेलाई का दौरा किया। टीम ने सरपंच सहित समुदाय से मिलकर वास्तविक जल समस्या को समझा। इसके बाद ग्राम सभा आयोजित की गई, जिसमें जल संबंधी समस्याओं और उनके समाधान पर चर्चा कर सामाजिक एवं संसाधन मानचित्र तैयार किया गया।

इससे यह स्पष्ट हुआ कि जल संकट का मुख्य कारण जल संचयन संरचनाओं का अभाव और मौजूदा संरचनाओं में गाद भरने से उनकी क्षमता का कम होना था। परिणामस्वरूप गर्मियों में नल-जल योजना और अन्य स्रोतों का जल स्तर गिर जाता था।

समुदाय और ग्राम पेय जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति ने निर्णय लिया कि वर्षा जल को संरक्षित करने के लिए तालाबों और चेक-डैम का पुनर्निर्माण तथा नई संरचनाओं का निर्माण आवश्यक है। सरपंच रामसिंह जी ने पहल करते हुए प्रस्ताव रखा कि नई संरचनाओं को ग्राम कार्य योजना में शामिल किया जाए और पंचायत के माध्यम से शीघ्र पूरा किया जाए।

### मुख्य प्रस्ताव

- 💧 15 लाख की लागत से नाले पर एक नया चेक-डैम निर्माण।
- 💧 34 लाख की लागत से गाँव के ऊपरी हिस्से में एक बड़ा तालाब निर्माण।



“गाँव के नाले पर बना पुराना चेक डैम लीकेज था, जिसे वाटरएंड के सहयोग से मरम्मत किया गया। अब इसमें पर्याप्त पानी रुका है और नल-जल योजना के बोरवेल को सीधा लाभ मिल रहा है।”



रामसिंह डार

अध्यक्ष, ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति



Figure 4-5: समुदाय और वाटर एंड के सहयोग से निर्मित जल पुनर्भरण संरचना चेक डैम और रिचार्ज पिट | स्रोत: वाटर एंड इंडिया

- 10 लाख की लागत से गाँव के निचले हिस्से में नाले पर नया चेक-डैम निर्माण।

इन सभी प्रस्तावों को ग्राम सभा में प्रस्तुत कर सफलतापूर्वक ग्राम विकास योजना में शामिल किया गया। साथ ही, पुराने चेक-डैम की मरम्मत, नाला गहरीकरण और रिचार्ज पिट का कार्य वाटरएंड के सहयोग और समुदाय के श्रमदान से पूरा किया गया।

## प्रभाव

अब तक के प्रयासों से उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियाँ मिलीं—

- ग्राम पंचायत के सहयोग से दो नए चेक-डैम (15 और 10 लाख की लागत से) और एक नया तालाब (34 लाख की लागत से) बन चुका है।
- वाटरएंड के सहयोग से नाले का गहरीकरण और पुराने चेक-डैम की मरम्मत हुई, जिससे नल-जल योजना और किसानों को सिंचाई हेतु पानी मिलने लगा।
- पुराने बंद पड़े बोर को प्राकृतिक तरीके से रिचार्ज किया गया, जिससे भूजल स्तर में वृद्धि हो रही है।
- नल-जल योजना का बोरिंग रिचार्ज होने से इस गर्मी में पीने के पानी की समस्या नहीं होगी और सभी को पर्याप्त पानी मिलेगा।

## निष्कर्ष

ग्राम पंचायत और समुदाय अब जल संचयन के महत्व को समझने लगे हैं। भूजल स्तर में सुधार शुरू हो गया है। यह पहल न केवल गाँव के जल संकट का समाधान कर रही है, बल्कि जलवायु संकट की चुनौती से निपटने की दिशा में भी सकारात्मक कदम है।

कॉपी सम्पादित: चंचल कुमार मोदी, NPMU-NJJM द्वारा





# नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के प्रभावी उपयोग का एक अनुकरणीय उदाहरण बना छिंदवाड़ा जिले का ग्राम चिमटीपुर

- Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

प्यासे होंठों पर अब मुस्कान है,  
हर आँगन में बहता जीवनदान है...  
चिमटीपुर की ये नई पहचान है,  
सौर ऊर्जा संग खुशियों का गान है

छिंदवाड़ा जिले के विकासखंड तामिया के पातालकोट का एक गांव है चिमटीपुर जो कभी पेयजल संकट से जूझता था। यहां के ग्रामीणों, विशेषकर बच्चों और छात्र-छात्राओं को पढ़ाई के साथ-साथ रोजाना कई किलोमीटर दूर पानी लाने जाना पड़ता था। पढ़ाई में बाधा आने के साथ ही गांव की महिलाओं और बच्चियों को भी पानी की तलाश में कठिनाई झेलनी पड़ती थी।

परंतु आज चिमटीपुर एक नई मिसाल बनकर उभरा है। लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, परासिया के क्षेत्र अंतर्गत, जल जीवन मिशन की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना, जो कई वर्षों से परंपरागत विद्युत संयोजन के अभाव के कारण रुकी हुई थी, अब साकार हो गई है। कलेक्टर श्री शीलेन्द्र सिंह के मार्गदर्शन में विभाग द्वारा एक नवाचारी पहल की गई और गांव में सौर ऊर्जा संचालित पंप स्थापित कर पेयजल प्रदाय योजना को पूरी तरह से ऊर्जीकृत किया गया।

इस पहल के बाद गांव के हर घर में नल से पानी पहुंच रहा है और 'हर घर जल' का सपना हकीकत बन चुका है। अब छात्र-छात्राओं को पढ़ाई छोड़कर पानी ढोने नहीं जाना पड़ता और महिलाओं को भी दिनभर दूर स्थित कुएं-बावड़ी की दौड़ से मुक्ति मिल गई है।



Figure 6: सौर ऊर्जा चलित पेयजल आपूर्ति के बाद ग्राम वासी ग्राम वासी घर के सामने नल से जल भरते हुए  
स्रोत: पीएचईडी मध्य प्रदेश



Figure 7: ग्रामीण महिला, सौर ऊर्जा संचालित नल से जल लेती हुई | स्रोत: पीएचईडी मध्य प्रदेश

“

गांव की छात्रा कुमारी मनिता उसके बताती है कि “पहले उन्हें पानी के लिए बहुत दूर जाना पड़ता था, जिससे पढ़ाई भी छूट जाती थी, अब घर पर ही पानी मिल जाता है, हमारी बहुत परेशानी दूर हो गई है।”

वहीं गांव की महिला प्रमिला उसके कहती हैं “पहले वे लोग दूर स्थित कुएं से पानी लाते थे, उस पानी से कई बार बीमारी फैल जाती थी, लेकिन अब नल से साफ पानी आने लगा है जिससे बीमारी का खतरा नहीं है।”

”



## Village Chugawan, Moga: A Journey Towards Har Ghar Jal

- Shri Gurmeet Singh, Community Development Specialist, Moga

Village Chugawan, located in Block Moga-1 of District Moga, is home to 2,500 people living across 497 households. The community primarily depends on agriculture for its livelihood, with many working as cultivators while others earn as agricultural labourers.

For many years, the village faced severe challenges in accessing safe drinking water. The supply system was weak and irregular, leaving residents uncertain about when and how much water they would receive. Running the scheme was difficult, and the absence of trust further discouraged people from depending on it. The lack of a reliable supply often disrupted daily life, adding stress to families already engaged in labour-intensive agricultural work.

### Transformation under JJM - How Local Leadership and the Community Resolved the Issue

The turning point for Chugawan came in March 2020 with the support of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). A new borewell was constructed, enabling the water supply scheme to become fully functional. For the first time, households could count on water flowing from morning to evening. Every one of the 497 households received a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC), marking a major milestone in the village's journey towards water security.

This transformation would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of **Smt. Narinder Kaur**, the village Sarpanch. Known for her proactive approach, she personally went from house to house to collect

water bills. This consistent effort resulted in the accumulation of ₹75,000 in the water supply scheme's account, creating a much-needed financial buffer. At the same time, she encouraged families to use water



Figure 8-9: Regular meetings of community members under the leadership of Sarpanch Smt. Narinder Kaur has ensured trust, ownership, and a shared vision for Har Ghar Jal | Source: DWSS, Punjab





carefully and only as per their needs, instilling a culture of responsible consumption.

## Focus on Water Quality and Management

Equally important was the emphasis on ensuring water quality. The members of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), working closely with social staff, conducted regular water testing using H<sub>2</sub>S vials and Field Testing Kits. Samples were also sent periodically to departmental laboratories for further verification.

Monthly meetings of the Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation Committee (GPWSC) became a regular feature. In these meetings, records such as ledgers, cashbooks, logbooks, and chlorination registers were carefully maintained, ensuring transparency and accountability. This structured approach to management not only improved the efficiency of the scheme but also built trust within the community.

## Infrastructure Improvements

In addition to the borewell, the GPWSC made further investments to strengthen the system. By utilising funds from the 15th Finance Commission, along with part of its own resources, the committee laid a new pipeline in one section of the village. This provided potable drinking water to an additional 50–60 households, ensuring that no family was left behind.

This expansion meant that clean water reached every home in Chugawan, fulfilling the vision of *Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Nal*. The initiative went beyond just building infrastructure—it symbolised inclusion, ensuring that each household enjoyed the same level of service.

## Unique Initiatives: Building Community Pride

One of the most distinctive initiatives of the GPWSC was the installation of nameplates at the entrance of every

household. These plates, written in both Punjabi and English, displayed the name of the head of the family along with the account number of the water connection.

This small but meaningful step created a sense of ownership and accountability among households. It also strengthened the relationship between the committee and the community, as every family could see their direct link to the scheme. The nameplates became not only a symbol of service delivery but also of pride in being part of a village that values responsible water management.

## Impact on the Community

The combined efforts of the Sarpanch, the GPWSC, and the villagers brought visible changes to everyday life in Chugawan. With water now available throughout the day, households no longer faced the burden of fetching water from distant or unreliable sources. This reduced physical strain, especially for women,



Figure 10: Community spirit in action, planting roots for a sustainable future | Source: DWSS, Punjab





and allowed families to focus more on livelihoods and household activities.

Villagers also reported greater satisfaction with the services. Continuous availability of clean water improved hygiene and contributed to better health outcomes. At the same time, awareness grew around the importance of paying bills regularly. With timely payments and no misuse of water, the scheme has become financially sustainable – a challenge many rural water supply systems struggle to overcome.

Most importantly, there has been a shift in mindset. People now see themselves as stakeholders in the success of the scheme. They conserve water, support the committee's efforts, and take pride in their village being fully covered under Har Ghar Jal.

The story of Chugawan is not just about infrastructure—it is about community participation, strong local leadership, and responsible management. From a time when water was scarce and trust was low, the village has transformed into one

where every household has access to safe and regular drinking water.

Led by the vision and determination of **Smt. Narinder Kaur**, supported by the GPWSC and the community, Chugawan has shown that when people work together, even the most persistent challenges can be overcome. Today, the village stands as a model of how Jal Jeevan Mission, combined with grassroots leadership, can bring sustainable and meaningful change to rural life.

- Copy edited by Shailika Sinha, NJJM

## नियद नेल्लानार योजना बनी मिसाल

नक्सल प्रभावित अचकट गांव में हर घर पहुंचा शुद्ध पेयजल

● मुख्यमंत्री विष्णुदेव साय के नेतृत्व में जल जीवन मिशन ने बदली ग्रामीणों की तस्वीर

जनधारा समाचार

जिला मुख्यालय से लगभग 95 किलोमीटर दूर बसे इस गांव के लोगों को अब तक हैंडपंप और कुएं के पानी पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता था। गांव के मोसम में पानी की भारी



निकास का सामना करना प्रयोगों के लिए अत्यंत समस्या थी। इस समस्या का स्थानीय समाधान निकालते हुए जिला प्रशासन ने 2 सोलर टैंक और 38 स्टैंड पोस्ट की स्थापना कर गांव के 40 घरों में रहने वाले लगभग 120 ग्रामीणों को स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया है।

कार्यपालन अधिपत्या विनोद कुमार राम ने बताया कि जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत किए गए कार्य से अचकट गांव के प्रत्येक परिवार को

सोचे घर पर ही शुद्ध पेयजल मिल रहा है। इस योजना पर प.स.का.ता. जाहिर की। प.।मो.प। सु.क.म.ता. सोझी ने कहा

कि पहले हमें दूर से पानी लाना पड़ता था, जिससे कई बार स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याएं हो जाती थीं। अब घर में नल कनेक्शन लगने से हमें स्वच्छ पानी मिल रहा है। इसके लिए हम मुख्यमंत्री विष्णुदेव साय और जिला प्रशासन के बहुत आभारी हैं। हमें तरह सोझी मुकेश, विजय सोझी और गोपेश सोझी ने भी इस योजना की समर्थन करते हुए इसे अपने जीवन स्तर में बहुत सुधार बताया।



## 'नियद नेल्लानार योजना' बनी मिसाल

मुख्यमंत्री के नेतृत्व में जल जीवन मिशन ने बदली ग्रामीणों की तस्वीर

# नक्सल प्रभावित अचकट में हर घर पहुंच रहा शुद्ध पेयजल



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

**सुकमा.** नक्सल प्रभावित अचकट गांव में नियद नेल्लानार योजना के तहत अब हर घर तक शुद्ध पेयजल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की गई है। जल जीवन मिशन के तहत सुकमा जिला प्रशासन ने दूरस्थ और अंदरूनी इलाकों में पीने के पानी की सुविधा पहुंचाने का संकल्प साकार किया है।

ग्राम पंचायत कामाराम के अंतर्गत आने वाले अचकट गांव में अब 2 सोलर टैंक और 38 स्टैंड पोस्ट स्थापित किए गए हैं। इससे गांव के 40 घरों में रहने वाले लगभग 120 ग्रामीण सोचे घर पर शुद्ध पेयजल प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। गांव के ग्रामीण अब पहले की



**सुकमा.** अचकट गांव में अब 2 सोलर टैंक और 38 स्टैंड पोस्ट स्थापित किए गए हैं।

तरह हैंडपंप और कुएं के पानी पर निर्भर नहीं हैं। गर्मियों में पानी की किल्लत और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी

समस्याओं से निजात मिली है। अचकट गांव की सुकमती सोझी ने कहा, "पहले हमें दूर से पानी लाना

पड़ता था, जिससे कई बार स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याएं हो जाती थीं। अब घर में नल कनेक्शन लगने से हमें



## ग्रामीणों ने की योजना की सराहना

इसी तरह सोझी मुकेश, विजय सोझी और गोपेश सोझी ने भी इस योजना की सराहना की और इसे अपने जीवन स्तर में सुधार का बड़ा कदम बताया। नियद नेल्लानार योजना ग्रामीणों के जीवन में स्थायी बदलाव लाने और दूरस्थ नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं के विस्तार की मिसाल बन गई है।

स्वच्छ पानी मिल रहा है। इसके लिए हम मुख्यमंत्री विष्णुदेव साय और जिला प्रशासन के आभारी हैं।

# Poster Making Competition on My Gov platform: Empowering Students to Paint a Swachh Sujal Gaon

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) is not just about infrastructure, it is about dignity, health, and a better future. Recognizing the role of young minds in shaping this future, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, has launched a **Poster Making Competition** on the theme “**Swachh Sujal Gaon**” on the **MyGov** platform. The competition is live on My Gov platform from **1st September to 30th November 2025**.

This initiative is part of the Government of India's ongoing efforts under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) to ensure every rural household has access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation facilities. By engaging children, the campaign aims to foster behavioural change at the grassroots level, where every drawing, every colour, and every message contributes to building awareness and action.

## Why Students? Why Posters?

Children are powerful change-makers. Their creativity and imagination can translate complex WaSH issues into simple, inspiring messages. Schools serve as ideal spaces to spark this transformation. When students adopt safe WaSH practices, they influence their families, peers, and communities.



The poster competition is designed to:

- ◆ Encourage creativity and meaningful expression on WaSH.
- ◆ Raise awareness in a child-friendly and engaging manner.
- ◆ Empower students as active agents of change.
- ◆ Support India's progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

## Who Can Participate?

The competition is open to students from Classes 3 to 12 across all boards — State, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, NIOS, and others. Entries are categorized as:

**Category A: Classes 3 to 5**

**Category B: Classes 6 to 8**

**Category C: Classes 9 to 12**



Participants can submit digital posters or a scanned photo of hand-drawn posters in JPEG/JPG/PDF formats (maximum file size 10 MB).

**The Theme:** 'Swachh Sujal Gaon' - An ideal Swachh Sujal Gaon is one where every household and institution has access to safe and adequate drinking water through functional taps, sustains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, manages solid and liquid waste effectively, and practices community-led water governance through active Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs).

Students are invited to imagine and illustrate this vision through their posters; bringing alive the dream of a healthy, clean, and water-secure village.

## Rewards and Recognition

To celebrate young talent, attractive

prizes await. Top 3 winners in each category will receive cash awards (₹5,000, ₹3,000, and ₹2,000). 50 consolation prizes per category worth ₹1,000 each. All winners will also receive e-Certificates of Appreciation from DDWS.

The best entries will not just win prizes but may also feature in official publications, social media, and awareness campaigns, giving students a national platform to showcase their creativity.

## Building a Generation of Change Agents

By encouraging children to express their vision of a Swachh Sujal Gaon, this competition nurtures ownership, empathy, and civic responsibility in India's younger generation. More than a contest, it is a step toward creating ambassadors of water

conservation, sanitation, and hygiene, children who will grow into responsible citizens leading India's WaSH transformation.

As the competition goes live, we invites schools, teachers, parents, and communities to motivate their children to participate and contribute to this creative journey of nation-building.

This is a step to empower our young champions to draw the blueprint of a Swachh Sujal future!





विद्यमान एवं सम्मानित विभाग  
जल संधि विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI



मेरी सरकार



सबको पानी  
एक नया संकल्प की ओर



Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

# अब मैं, घर से सिर्फ पढाई के लिए निकलती हूँ, मटका लेकर पानी के लिए नहीं।

## आपके जीवन में क्या बदलाव आया है? आज ही भाग लें।

### मेरा मूल मेरा अभिमान



सेल्फी/ वीडियो प्रतियोगिता में  
भाग लेने के लिए, QR कोड स्कैन करें

## अंतिम तारीख : 31 अक्टूबर 2025

# Grassroots Leadership Driving Swachh Sujal Gaon and Emerging as WASH Champions<sup>1</sup>

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

**W**ater, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are at the heart of human dignity, health, and development. In rural India, these essentials are not merely about infrastructure but about sustained behavior change, community ownership, and inclusive governance. At the frontline of this transformation stand the Sarpanches, the elected heads of Gram Panchayats who embody the spirit of leadership, accountability, and service. Their vision and commitment have been instrumental in translating policies into practice, ensuring that the vision of Swachh Sujal Gaon is realized in every corner of the country.

## Grassroots Leaders with a National Mission

Sarpanches occupy a unique position in India's governance architecture. As the first elected representatives in villages, they are not only decision-makers but also custodians of

When a Sarpanch leads, the entire village follows - transforming water and sanitation into a people's movement

community aspirations. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) have provided them with platforms to lead on issues that affect daily lives catering access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene awareness.

The success of these flagship programmes is deeply linked with the ability of Sarpanches to mobilize communities, build consensus, and ensure sustainability. By championing WASH, they are not only improving living conditions but also contributing directly to India's progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation for All.

## From Policy to Practice: Translating Vision into Action

While national missions provide vision and resources, it is at the Gram Panchayat level that these policies acquire life. Here, the role of the Sarpanch becomes critical.

◆ Har Ghar Jal: in many GPs Sarpanches lead the planning and execution of village action plans, ensure the functioning of Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), and monitor the quality of water supply. Their oversight ensures that households not only receive

tap connections but also sustainable and safe drinking water throughout the year.

- ◆ Swachhata Sustainability: From overseeing toilet construction to ensuring their sustained usage, Sarpanches have been pivotal in maintaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, addressing solid and liquid waste management, and promoting hygiene practices in many GPs.
- ◆ Community Engagement: Policies succeed when people embrace them. Sarpanches act as bridges between government and community, creating trust and ownership. Their ability to translate schemes into culturally resonant messages makes them powerful agents of change.

## Building Trust, Inspiring Participation

No rural development intervention can succeed without active community participation. Sarpanches, VWSC presidents, GP Presidents through their leadership, mobilize VWSCs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth clubs, and volunteers to take ownership of water and sanitation assets.

◆ In **Assam** (Koraikhowa, Jorhat District), under guidance of WUC President **Bina Kumari**, the village shifted from unsafe sources to piped connections

<sup>1</sup> Examples are taken from [jaljeevanmission.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication\\_and\\_reports/peyjal-jan-shakti-ki-abhivyakti.pdf](http://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_and_reports/peyjal-jan-shakti-ki-abhivyakti.pdf)



A Sarpanch's leadership is not measured by the number of taps installed, but by the dignity, health, and hope those taps bring into every home

through active involvement of women. Awareness on water conservation and efficient use fostered strong community ownership.

- ◆ In **Tamil Nadu** (Eraiyur, Kanchipuram District), under the guidance of Sarpanch **S. Sasirekha Saravanan's** leader-

ship the VWSC overcame resistance to chlorinated water, built trust through awareness campaigns, and introduced rainwater harvesting and rejuvenation of local water bodies. Community participation grew with subcommittees and recognition programs, ensuring sustainability.

- ◆ In **Jharkhand** (Gamharia, Khunti District), Jal Sahiya **Rajmani Tiru** mobilized the tribal community to adopt sanitation practices, manage water quality, and build soak pits, kitchen gardens, and compost pits, turning the village into a model for cleanliness and participation. She received ample support and guidance from the Sarpanch.

These examples underline how leadership rooted in trust and

inclusiveness fosters collective responsibility for WASH outcomes. Such grassroots efforts directly align with the objectives of JJM, which emphasizes community participation, decentralized planning, and long-term sustainability. By empowering local institutions and promoting water-smart practices, JJM not only addresses immediate water needs but also builds resilience against future climate uncertainties. The mission's focus on 'Har Ghar Jal' is being realized through these village-level innovations, ensuring safe and adequate water supply for every rural household.

### Water-Smart Villages: Innovations at the Local Level

Climate change and water scarcity are pressing challenges. Sarpanches, VWSC chairpersons are rising to the



Figure 11-12: Water Quality test & Gram Sabha | Source: TWAD Board & RD&PR Department, Tamil Nadu








Figure 13: Saroura Rural Water Supply Scheme | Source: SWSM, Uttar Pradesh

From reviving ponds to recycling greywater, Sarpanches are turning villages into Water-Smart hubs of resilience and sustainability

occasion by steering villages toward climate-resilient water management. These local leaders are adopting innovative solutions such as water source sustainability, greywater management, water conservation etc. to ensure sustainable water availability for all.

 **Water Source Sustainability** – In Uttar Pradesh (Saroura village, Raebareli District), VWSC

Chairman Shri Purnmasi converged JJM with SBM-G to ensure bacteriologically safe drinking water and safe sanitation while

conserving a 250 year old traditional water sources and promoting solid and liquid waste management.



Figure 14: The pump house constructed by GP Sippighat | Source: APWD (Andaman Public Works Department)

◆ **Greywater Management** – In Mizoram (Khanpui village, Saitual district) **Ms. Chuahmingthangi** led door-to-door campaigns and created a Children's Sanitation Club to instill habits of greywater recycling, preventing wastewater from flowing on village roads and using it productively. She empowered young minds by visiting schools to spread awareness about water safety & conservation established a Children's Sanitation Club, organizing social work activities and free medical check-ups. She advocates for water safety, forest preservation, and responsible water usage.

◆ **Water Conservation** – In **A&N Islands** (Sippighat Village, South Andaman): VWSC Chairperson **Smt. Jyothi Pradhan** steered collective water conservation efforts, prioritizing sustainability and ensuring secure water supply through innovative practices and community mobilization. She identified potential water sources in and around the village and collaborated with Assam Public Works Department (APWD) to develop them. Recognizing the need for a sustainable solution, she assessed the available resources and issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to APWD to extend water supply lines to areas beyond the Panchayat's existing coverage. To ensure efficient management, the Panchayat took over the newly developed water sources and infrastructure for operation and maintenance. Additionally, Smt. Jyothi allocated Panchayat funds to install a pump in a borewell developed by APWD, ensuring a steady supply of water from this new source.

Such innovations and proactive involvement of panchayat leadership

are turning villages into Water-Smart Villages, where water is conserved, reused, and valued.

#### **Sanitation and Hygiene Champions**

Beyond water, the role of Sarpanches and other village/panchayat leaders in sanitation and hygiene is equally transformative. Their interventions range from infrastructure to behavioral change communication.

#### **Sustaining ODF Villages**

– In Manipur (Phayeng village, Imphal West District), Under the leadership of **Konhoujam Shyamashakhi Devi**, the village ensured all households had hygienic toilets, blending cultural ethos with modern practices. The VWSC has been instrumental in integrating the village's cultural ethos with modern practices of cleanliness and hygiene. Through its leadership, every resident, from elders to schoolchildren, plays a role in maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

#### **Solid & Liquid Waste Management**

– In **Jharkhand** (Gamharia, Khunti District), under the leadership of **Rajmani Tiru**, the village has made remarkable progress in waste

management. Through the construction of soak pits, NADEP compost pits, segregation bins, and incinerators all implemented under strong community leadership the village has achieved ODF Plus status and become self-reliant in managing both solid and liquid waste. This holistic approach not only improves sanitation but also sets an inspiring example for sustainable rural development.

#### **Health & Hygiene Promotion**

– In **Arunachal Pradesh** (Naharlagun village, Papum Pare district), **Madam Likha Sang Chore** led an intensive IEC campaign to raise awareness about health and hygiene. Through door-to-door interactions, public meetings, and village-level discussions, she effectively conveyed the long-term benefits of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), including access to clean and reliable water for every household. Her efforts emphasized the importance of handwashing, safe water handling, and hygiene practices, fostering a healthier and more informed community.

The true measure of success lies in stories from villages where lives have



Figure 15: Community meeting inspection of water flow | Source: PHED Jharkhand



been transformed. In many cases, women Sarpanches are emerging as strong leaders in sanitation and water management, ensuring that facilities cater to the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups. These testimonials highlight how the leadership of a single individual can create a ripple effect leading to collective progress, dignity, and pride for the entire community.

## Strengthening the Sarpanch Ecosystem

While the achievements are noteworthy, challenges remain. Not all Sarpanches have equal capacity or resources to implement complex WASH interventions. Capacity building, continuous training, and peer learning platforms are essential. The role of line departments, state governments, and development partners in empowering Sarpanches with knowledge, tools, and technologies cannot be overstated.

Investing in their leadership is investing in the sustainability of WASH services. With the right ecosystem—technical support, financial resources, and recognition Sarpanches can scale up their impact manifold.

## Sarpanch at the Heart of WASH Governance

The journey towards Swachh Sujal Gaon is not only about infrastructure but about leadership. Sarpanches, with their grassroots connect and commitment to service, are emerg-

The journey to Swachh Sujal Gaon begins with one's leadership, and the participation of an entire community.



Figure 16: Rajmani Tiru monitoring the water flow | Source: PHED Jharkhand

ing as the true champions of WASH. They bridge the gap between government vision and community action, between policy documents and daily lives.

As India marches toward the ambitious goal of universal access to safe water and sanitation, the role of Sarpanches will only become more

central. Their leadership ensures that every household tap is not just a symbol of progress, but a source of dignity, health, and hope.

By celebrating and strengthening Sarpanch leadership, we are not only honoring our grassroots democracy but also securing a future where every village is truly Swachh and Sujal.

## Leading with Clean Water: The Sarpanch Who Became a WASH Champion

- Praveen Kumar (District Coordinator) and Satyanarayana (Field Coordinator), Andhra Pradesh, Evidence Action



Figure 17: Safe water in their hands, hope in their eyes, Jal Jeevan Mission reaching every home and securing the future of the next generation | Source: EA, AP

**R**amannagudem, a rural village in Nuziveedu Mandal of Eluru District with around 100 households, long struggled with unsafe drinking water. Nearly 90% of families relied only on one Overhead Reservoir (OHR). The water quality from the tank supply was found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes by the community due to negligence of regular chlorination, jeopardizing their health.

It was at this time that **Shri Srinivas Rao, the Sarpanch of Ramannagudem** village, stepped forward with grit and determination. Taking the challenge head-on, he looked for solutions to enable access to safe water for his village.

### The Beginning of Change: Technology Innovation

Recognizing the importance of safe drinking water, Sarpanch Shri Rao

escalated the matter to higher authorities, advocating for a safer solution. He not only welcomed new technology but also took the initiative to learn it himself and spread awareness in the village. His persistent efforts paved the way for improving water quality through chlorination.

Under the guidance of the National Jal Jeevan Mission and the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS)







Figure 18: Sarpanch Shri Srinivas Rao talking to community members about the benefits of safe drinking water | Source: EA, AP

Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Evidence Action installed a tablet-based In-Line Chlorination (ILC) device, a water disinfection system integrated into the village's supply pipelines. This installation was designed to ensure a regular supply of safe, chlorinated drinking water to households in the village.

## Driving Sustainable and Lasting Change

Installing the device was only the first step, the real challenge began when villagers showed resistance to drinking chlorinated water because of a slight difference in its taste and smell. At this crucial moment, Sarpanch Shri Srinivas Rao stepped forward with determination to dispel myths and build trust. He went door to door, patiently listening to people's concerns, and explained the technology, its benefits, and how safe water could protect their families from the harmful effects of contaminated water.

To ensure that the message reached every household, Shri Rao mobilized the support of ANMs, ASHA workers, Self Help Groups, the Jal Samiti, and fellow panchayat members.

Together, they organized community meetings, *Gram Sabhas*, and awareness sessions where the technology was demonstrated, and its health benefits explained. His

hands-on approach and relentless commitment turned hesitation into acceptance, proving that true leadership lies not only in introducing change but also in guiding people to embrace it for a healthier future.

Through these community-driven efforts, the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) actively participated in spreading awareness. Focus group discussions and *Gram Charchas* encouraged villagers to share experiences and understand how the In-Line Chlorination device treated water prevents diseases and improves health outcomes. Shri Rao also reassured people that slight changes in taste and smell are normal when chlorine tablets are used and do not affect water safety. With calm reassurance and persistent awareness-building, he helped transform skepticism into confidence, making safe drinking water a reality for the entire village.

*"As the Sarpanch, I have always felt responsible for ensuring safe drinking water for every family in our village. For years, people struggled with unsafe water, and I knew this had to change. I was exploring for some solution. When I learned about the chlorination device, I was determined to bring it here. At first, some villagers were hesitant due to the taste and smell, but I met them personally, addressed their concerns, and explained how safe water impacts our health. With patience and persistence, the community accepted the technology. I am proud to see Ramannagudem emerge as a model village for safe water. Knowing that our children and families are protected from waterborne diseases gives me immense satisfaction."*



Seelam Srinivas Rao  
Sarpanch



Figure 19: ASHA and ANM workers talking to the community and raising awareness on safe water | Source: EA, AP

He played a pivotal role in the installation of the device. With training from Evidence Action, he learned to operate and maintain the device, ensuring his village has access to safe drinking water. Today, his efforts have significantly improved the health outcomes of 100 households. He served not only as a leader but emerged as the WASH Champion, his journey is one of determination, overcoming challenges, and inspiring an entire community through his unwavering commitment to safe drinking water.

Copy Edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM

## When Communities Lead, Change Follows

Shri Rao's inspiring journey stands as a shining example of how educated and empowered leaders can spark meaningful change and act as WASH Champion, ensuring that health, dignity, and progress flow freely through every tap in their community.

The impact of this intervention in Ramannagudem village has been profound. Villagers have reported a noticeable decline in waterborne diseases, especially among children. Increased awareness has fostered community-led initiatives on hygiene and sanitation, further strengthening public health outcomes.

An educated and strong-willed leader, he became a true WASH champion, showing how a sarpanch can embrace modern solutions while staying rooted in traditional awareness practices. From adopting innovative methods to conducting door-to-door campaigns, he ensured that his community not only had access to technology but also understood its importance for a healthier future. The installation aimed to ensure a regular supply of safe, chlorinated drinkable water to households in the village.



Figure 20: A In-Line Chlorination (ILC) device at Ramannagudem Village, Eluru District, Andhra Pradesh | Source: EA, AP

*"At first, many of us were worried about the new chlorination device because of the smell and taste of the water. Some families even thought it was unsafe. But our Sarpanch, Shri Seelam Srinivas Rao, visited our homes, spoke to us patiently, and explained how chlorination protects us from diseases. Now we can see the difference, the water is clear and tastes better, and we feel secure that our children are drinking safe water."*

**Smt. Kurakula Ramadevi**  
Community Member





# जल जीवन मिशन ने बदली जिंदगी, अब घर पहुंच रहा पानी

- Amit Kumar Ranjan, NPMU-NJJM

**प**हले, सुबह का अधिकांश समय परिवार के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था में बिताने वाली महिलाएं अब घर में नल से पानी आने के बाद राहत की सांस ले रही हैं।

अब उन्हें बच्चों की परवरिश, पढ़ाई-लिखाई, खेती, मजदूरी और आजीविका के अन्य कार्यों के लिए पर्याप्त समय मिल रहा है।

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग ने दंतेवाड़ा जिले के गीदम विकासखंड की बिंजाम ग्राम पंचायत में जल जीवन मिशन के माध्यम से 267 घरों में नल से जल पहुंचाया है।

इससे गांववाले, खासकर महिलाएं, बेहद खुश हैं। गांव को 'हर घर जल ग्राम' का दर्जा भी मिल गया है।

बिंजाम के अधिकांश परिवार आजीविका के लिए खेती और मजदूरी पर निर्भर हैं। यहां पहले पेयजल का मुख्य स्रोत हैंडपंप ही था। लेकिन अब जल जीवन मिशन के तहत गांव के हर घर में नल से स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित पेयजल की आपूर्ति हो रही है।

जल आपूर्ति के लिए गांव में 16 किलोमीटर से अधिक पाइपलाइन बिछाई गई है। तीन उच्च स्तरीय जलागारों (पानी की टंकियों) के माध्यम से हर घर तक पानी पहुंचाया जा रहा है। जल जीवन मिशन से हर परिवार को न केवल पर्याप्त जल मिल रहा है, बल्कि यह स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित भी है। गांव में गठित 'जल वाहिनी' समूह की महिलाओं को जल की गुणवत्ता जांचने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया गया है।

ये महिलाएं फील्ड टेस्ट किट के माध्यम से जल की गुणवत्ता का परीक्षण कर रही हैं और गांव में

गुणवत्तायुक्त पेयजल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित कर रही हैं। इससे गांववाले अब जलजनित और अशुद्ध पानी से होने वाली बीमारियों के खतरे से मुक्त हो गए हैं।

जल जीवन मिशन ने बिंजाम की महिलाओं का जीवन पूरी तरह बदल दिया है। पहले धूप, गर्मी, बरसात, ठंड या रात होने पर भी महिलाओं को पानी लाने के लिए घर से दूर जाना पड़ता था।

घर में छोटे बच्चे हों या खुद की तबीयत खराब हो, तब भी पानी लाने बाहर निकलना ही पड़ता था। लेकिन अब घर में ही नल लग जाने से हालात बदल गए हैं। रोज की परेशानियों से निजात मिल गई है। बिंजाम की महिलाएं बताती हैं कि पहले

घर के सभी लोगों के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था में बहुत समय और मेहनत लगती थी।

सुबह का ज्यादातर समय इसी में निकल जाता था, जिससे उनकी दुनिया सिमट-सी गई थी। परिवार के खेती-किसानी के कामों में वे ठीक से सहयोग नहीं कर पाती थीं और न ही अन्य कोई रोजगारमूलक गतिविधियों के बारे में सोच सकती थीं। लेकिन अब जल जीवन मिशन ने ये सारी परेशानियां दूर कर दी हैं। अब बच्चे रोज समय पर बिना रुकावट के स्कूल जा रहे हैं।

महिलाओं को अब अपनी सब्जी-बाड़ी, वनोपज संग्रहण, खेत और घर के अन्य कामों के लिए पर्याप्त समय मिल रहा है।



Figure 21: ग्रामीण महिला, सोलर ऊर्जा स्वचालित नल से जल लेती हुई | स्रोत: पीएचडी छत्तीसगढ़



# ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति की सक्रियता से बेहतर हुआ नल-जल योजना का संचालन और रखरखाव

- श्वेता सोनोने, Water Aid India, Dhar

## प्रस्तावना

मध्य प्रदेश के जिला धार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ग्राम पंचायत के सामने जल जीवन मिशन के तहत नल-जल योजना का संचालन एवं गर्मियों के दिनों में जल

संकट एक प्रमुख चुनौती बनकर सामने आता है। ग्राम बगड़ी तुर्क में भी नल-जल योजना के बोरिंग का जल स्तर मार्च माह से ही नीचे जाना शुरू हो जाता है और अप्रैल-मई आते-आते योजना के बोरिंग सहित गाँव के अधिकतर पेयजल स्रोत सूख जाते हैं।

“

“पहले हम जानते नहीं थे की कौन जल समिति में है कितना पैसा आता है और खर्च कहा पर हो रहा है, लेकिन अब नई जल समिति के गठन के बाद हम हर महीने जल समिति की बैठक करते हैं और इस माह कितनी वसूली हुई और क्या खर्चा आया ये हिसाब पर बात करते हैं।”

- मिठूलाल चावड़ा,  
जल समिति सदस्य

”

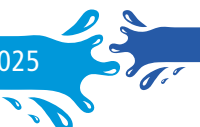


Figure 22-23: जल समिति की मासिक बैठक में आय व्यय पर चर्चा एवं जल कर वसूली अभियान | स्रोत: वाटर ऐड इंडिया

महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि हर वर्ष गर्मियों में पीने के पानी की पूर्ति के लिए पंचायत को पास के गाँव जमुरखेड़ी के पंचायत स्रोत से पाइपलाइन द्वारा पानी लाकर आपूर्ति करनी पड़ती है। लेकिन सक्रिय ग्राम पेय जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति, समुदाय, संस्थाओं और ग्राम पंचायत के नेतृत्व एवं सहयोग से किए गए प्रयास स्थायी समाधान की दिशा दिखाते हैं। बगड़ी तुर्क गाँव की कहानी सक्रिय ग्राम पेय जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति के प्रयासों से नल-जल योजना के संचालन और रखरखाव में आए परिवर्तन की एक प्रेरक यात्रा को दर्शाती है, जहाँ महिला सरपंच संगीता जी के नेतृत्व में समिति ने वाटरएड इंडिया के सहयोग से जल संरक्षण और योजना प्रबंधन की पहल शुरू की।

योजना संचालन में प्रमुख समस्याएँ/चुनौतियाँ

• गर्मियों (अप्रैल-जून) में नल-जल योजना एवं अन्य पेयजल स्रोतों का सूखना।





66

“पहले मुझे टूट-फुट को सुधारने की इतनी जानकारी नहीं थी तो योजना में होने वाली टूट फुट को सुधारने में 6 – 7 दिन लगते थे और हमे धार से किसी को बुलाना बढता था ,लेकिन वाटर ऐड से मिले प्रशिक्षण और टूलकिट के बाद अब हम योजना में होने वाली टूट फुट को उसी दिन सुधार कर पानी चालू कर देते है।”

- आत्माराम जी, पंप ऑपरेटर

- हितग्राहियों द्वारा जलकर का नियमित भुगतान न करना।
- जल समिति की निष्क्रियता।
- योजना से संबंधित आवश्यक और पर्याप्त दस्तावेजों का अभाव।
- गाँव में जल संरक्षण संरचनाओं की कमी और उनकी मरम्मत का अभाव।
- पंप ऑपरेटर का अप्रशिक्षित होना और आवश्यक उपकरणों की अनुपलब्धता।

## हस्तक्षेप

गाँव की स्थिति में बदलाव तब आया जब वाटरएड इंडिया की टीम ने बगड़ी तुर्क का दौरा किया। सरपंच संगीता जी के नेतृत्व में ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति के साथ बैठक कर समस्याओं को समझा गया। सबसे पहले समुदाय की भागीदारी से गाँव का सामाजिक एवं संसाधन मानचित्र तैयार किया गया, जिससे यह तय हुआ कि किन स्थानों पर सुधार और नई संरचनाओं की आवश्यकता है।

इसके बाद ग्राम सभा आयोजित हुई, जिसमें निष्क्रिय ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति को भंग कर नई सक्रिय समिति गठित की गई। नई समिति ने नियमित जलकर वसूली शुरू की, दस्तावेजों को व्यवस्थित किया और जिन घरों में

पानी का दबाव कम था, वहां समस्या दूर कराई। समिति की मासिक बैठकें सुनिश्चित की गईं, जिनमें आय-व्यय पर चर्चा कर पारदर्शिता लाई गई।

वाटरएड के सहयोग से एक महिला और एक पुरुष पंप ऑपरेटर को 10 दिवसीय प्लंबिंग और इलेक्ट्रिकल प्रशिक्षण दिलवाया गया और उन्हें टूलकिट प्रदान की गई, जिससे योजना में होने वाली सामान्य टूट-फुट का समाधान गाँव स्तर पर ही संभव हुआ। गर्मियों में जल संकट दूर करने के लिए नए जल संरक्षण ढांचे के निर्माण और बंद पड़े बोरवेल के रिचार्ज का भी निर्णय लिया गया।

## मुख्य कार्य

- ग्राम पंचायत ने नर्सरी के पास शासकीय भूमि पर दो भू-संकलन तालाब (ponds)

बनवाए। इस कार्य पर पंचायत ने 2,00,000/- रुपये खर्च किए और समुदाय ने खुदाई से निकली मिट्टी अपने निजी वाहनों से खेतों में ले जाकर लगभग 1,00,000/- रुपये का सहयोग दिया।

- गाँव के पुराने तालाब की टूटी पाल की मरम्मत कराई गई।
- वाटरएड के सहयोग से पुराने बंद पड़े बोरवेल को प्राकृतिक तरीके से रिचार्ज किया गया। पंचायत ने सोखता गड्ढा खुदाई में 5,000/- रुपये का योगदान दिया।

## प्रभाव

इन प्रयासों से उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियाँ मिलीं:

- जलकर वसूली, जो पहले केवल 10% तक ही हो पाती थी, अब बढ़कर 85% तक हो



Figure 24-25: पंप ऑपरेटरों का प्रशिक्षण एवं फील्ड भ्रमण | स्रोत: वाटर एड इंडिया

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“पहले हमें पता नहीं था की दस्तावेज कैसे बनाना है वाटर ऐड के दुवारा दी गई ट्रेनिंग और सहयोग के बाद हमने योजना के सभी दस्तावेजों को मजबूत किया और अब हम हर महीने दस्तावेज कम्पलीट करते हैं।”

- राहुल जाट,  
ग्राम रोजगार सहायक

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रही है। इससे पंप ऑपरेटर का नियमित वेतन और आवश्यक व्यय समय पर पूरे हो रहे हैं।

- प्रशिक्षित पंप ऑपरेटर अब टूट-फूट को गाँव स्तर पर उसी दिन सुधार देते हैं, जिससे पानी की आपूर्ति निर्बाध रहती है।
- जलकर से संबंधित दस्तावेज व्यवस्थित होने से समिति और समुदाय के बीच पारदर्शिता बढ़ी है।
- निर्मित जल संरक्षण संरचनाओं से भूजल स्तर बढ़ना शुरू हो गया है, जिससे गर्मियों में पीने के पानी की समस्या कम होगी।

#### निष्कर्ष

सक्रिय ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति, ग्राम पंचायत और समुदाय अब जल संचयन के महत्व को समझने लगे हैं। भूजल स्तर में सुधार के साथ-साथ नियमित जलकर वसूली से नल-जल योजना का संचालन और रखरखाव सुचारु रूप से होने लगा है। योजना में होने वाली टूट-फूट को समय पर सुधार कर जल आपूर्ति नियमित की जा रही है। यह पहल न केवल गाँव के जल संकट का समाधान है, बल्कि उन ग्रामों के लिए भी प्रेरणा है, जहाँ नल-जल योजना के संचालन में चुनौतियाँ सामने आती हैं।

कॉपी सम्पादित: चंचल कुमार मोदी, NPMU-NJJM द्वारा



Figure 26-27: पंप ओपरेटर से का प्रशिक्षण एवं फील्ड भ्रमण | स्रोत: वाटर ऐड इंडिया

“पहले जब जलकर वसूली केवल 6,000 रुपये होती थी तो नल जल योजना को चलाने बहुत दिक्कत होती थी समझ नहीं आता था की पंप ओपरेटर को कहा से पैसे देंगे लेकिन अब हर माह 13,000 – 14,000 रुपये की वसूली होने से योजना बहुत अच्छे से चल रही है।”



संगीता मुनिया  
महिला सरपंच



## Purohitwala's Water Champion: The Story of Meenu Chhetri

- Deepali Negi and Utkarsh Dubey (Sarpanch Samvaad Team), Quality Council of India

In the scenic terrain of **Purohitwala**, a quiet village tucked in the **Sahaspur Block of Dehradun District, Uttarakhand**, a story of resolve and transformation is reshaping the lives of its people. The village, like many others across the country, had long struggled with a fundamental issue: lack of reliable drinking water. For decades, residents depended on a nearby seasonal stream that fed only a few household taps and community standposts. But as summers grew harsher, the stream would run dry, leaving taps dry and families without water. This precarious dependence forced villagers, especially women, to walk long distances in search of water. The burden fell hardest on mothers and daughters, who bore both the physical strain and the emotional weight of this unending routine.

That cycle began to break, when **Smt. Meenu Chhetri** was elected as **Gram Pradhan**. Determined to address what she called "*the village's longest-standing injustice*," she made water access the centerpiece of her governance agenda. Under her leadership, the village took decisive steps towards integrating with **Jal Jeevan Mission**, a flagship program of the Government of India aimed at ensuring Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in rural areas.

Rather than pushing a top-down agenda, Meenu began by calling a series of **Gram Panchayat-level meetings**, ensuring that the plan to solve the issue of water scarcity came

from within the community, fostering collective decision-making and Jan Bhagidari. These weren't symbolic gatherings; they were decision-making forums where villagers helped map water sources, identify priority households, and agreed on a shared approach. She also formed a local committee that included youth and women, reinforcing the idea that water governance is everyone's responsibility.

With the plan in place, construction of an **overhead tank** commenced. At the same time, Meenu prioritised the revival of local water bodies through **check dam construction** and slope-side runoff catchments - simple yet powerful **water conservation** techniques that could protect the village from future drought stress. As

the infrastructure developed, another equally critical front was addressed - **water quality**. With the support of **departmental engineers and officials**, regular **source inspections** were conducted, and water samples were tested before being integrated into the supply line.

The pipelines began to stretch, connecting the overhead tank (OHT) to homes, crossing rocky patches and forested slopes. What was once a distant dream had become a work in progress, visible to every villager. The transformation culminated when the first **household tap** began to flow - clean, accessible, and readily available. For the women of Purohitwala, it was more than just water; it was relief, dignity, and reclaimed time.



Figure 28-29: Gram Panchayat level meeting | Source: QCI



Figure 30-32: Inspection of OHT work and water quality testing using | FTK Source: QCI

But Meenu Chhetri didn't stop at infrastructure. She advocated **community-led maintenance** of the village's water supply assets, where minor repair costs and the fitter's salary are now covered through a local water fund, sustained by a nominal household contribution. This has not only improved accountability but also created **employment opportunity** within the village. As issues arise - pipe leakages, filter blockages, or tank cleaning - they are handled swiftly, without waiting for district-level interventions.

Today, **not a single tap in Purohitwala runs dry**. The transformation has

gone beyond water; it has improved health outcomes, reduced migration pressures, and restored pride in the Panchayat. Meenu Chhetri has since been elected for a third consecutive term. Villagers say it's not just because she built pipelines, but because she built **trust, systems, and lasting solutions**.

Her journey exemplifies how a determined Sarpanch, supported by community participation and institutional backing, backed by people's participation and institutional support, can convert a basic right into a legacy.

Copy edited by  
Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

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“हमारे गांव की सबसे बड़ी जरूरत थी पानी। वो भी साफ पानी। आज हर घर में नल है, ये किसी चमत्कार से कम नहीं लगता।”

(“Water was our village's greatest need. Safe drinking water in every home flowing from taps, feels like a miracle.”)

— Bhupendra Shahi, Purohitwala]

”



Figure 33: Gram Panchayat level meeting | Source: QCI





## Union Minister for Rural development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Jal Shakti Minister Shri Chandrakant Raghunath Patil launch National Initiative on Water Security under MGNREGA

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Jal Shakti jointly launched the National Initiative on Water Security through a high-level video conference chaired by Union Ministers Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Shri C.R. Patil. Senior officials of MoRD, NWM, DDWS, along with representatives from line Central Ministries, State Governments, District Collectors, Zilla Parishads, and Panchayats, participated in the conference. The conference underlined water conservation as a national priority under MGNREGA. Over the years, more than 1.25 crore water conservation and irrigation assets have been created with an expenditure of ₹3.34 lakh crore, helping reduce water-stressed rural blocks from 2,264 to 1,456. Initiatives such as Mission Amrit Sarovar-with over 68,000 ponds rejuvenated in its first phase-were recognised as best practices for replication.

A landmark outcome was the **gazette notification** mandating dedicated allocations for water-related works:

- 💧 65% in over-exploited blocks,
- 💧 40% in semi-critical blocks, and
- 💧 30% in safe blocks.

This decision ensures that employment generation under MGNREGA is firmly aligned with long-term groundwater recharge, crop-based water security, and climate resilience. States, districts, and Panchayats committed to mobilising Jan

Bhagidari in strengthening and maintaining local water bodies, integrating traditional wisdom with modern solutions.

This initiative reinforces the vision of **Sujalam Bharat**, positioning water as both a livelihood asset and a cornerstone of rural prosperity.



Figure 34: Union Minister for Rural development and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan handing over the gazette to Jal Shakti Minister Shri Chandrakant Raghunath Patil | Source: Conference



Figure 35: Different water conservation initiatives taken under MGNREGA | Source: Conference



# Cold, High, and Resolute: A Field Chronicle of Water & Sanitation in Ladakh

- Shailika Sinha, NJJM and Syed Ali, NPMU-NJJM with inputs from PHED Ladakh

**P**erched high in the Himalayas, Ladakh presents a landscape of stark beauty and even starker challenges. With scattered habitations, sub-zero winters, and fragile water sources, ensuring safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation here is as much about innovation as it is about persistence. It was against this backdrop that Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, IAS, Additional Secretary and Mission Director (DDWS), visited the Union Territory from 11–15 September 2025.

Over five days, he travelled from Leh to some of the remotest habitations under the Vibrant Villages Programme, reviewing progress under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission–Grameen (SBM-G). The visit combined policy discussions with UT officials and field interactions with communities, bringing to light both the strides made and the tasks ahead.

## Day 1: Setting the Agenda in Leh

The visit began with a review meeting in Leh where officials from PHED, RD Department, and district administrations presented the current status of JJM and SBM-G. The deliberations touched on key themes:

- ◆ Strengthening grievance redressal through faster repair timelines and clearer escalation protocols.
- ◆ Sustaining water sources by converging funds and linking with



Figure 36: Review meeting chaired by the AS&MD-NJJM | Source: PHED Ladakh



Figure 37: Review meeting chaired by the AS&MD-NJJM | Source: PHED Ladakh

conservation drives like the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan.

- ◆ Formalising Operations & Maintenance (O&M) through a notified policy and tripartite MoUs to ensure accountability.

Discussions also stressed onboarding Panchayat Secretaries onto the e-Gram Swaraj portal, nominating Nal Jal Mitras, and ensuring Field Test Kits (FTKs) are used and results displayed publicly. Innovative solutions such as





winter-friendly mobile toilets were suggested for addressing sanitation challenges during freezing months.

Later in the day, the AS&MD visited the UT-level water testing laboratory, where he observed ongoing efforts to monitor water quality and continuity of supply. The visit reaffirmed the role of robust water-quality monitoring in building trust and accountability for the mission.

A meeting with the Chief Secretary, Dr. Pawan Kotwal, reinforced the

need for community mobilisation, user charges, and *Jan Bhagidari* as cornerstones for sustainability.

## Day 2: Vibrant Villages in Changthang

The field visit began with a journey across the Changla Pass (17,688 ft) to the Changthang region, covering villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme. At Tangste (12,500 ft), traditional water sources (chashma) were inspected alongside JJM infrastructure, highlighting the

blending of old practices with new systems.

He later visited Maan and Lukung villages, situated at 14,365 ft. In Maan, conversations with schoolchildren brought out the difference reliable water makes in learning environments. In Lukung, he inspected sanitation infrastructure, including a segregation shed under SBM-G, but noted that equipment procured earlier could not yet be used due to the absence of electricity connections.



Figure 38: Inspection of infrastructure developed under JJM | Source: PHED Ladakh



Figure 39: Interaction with schoolchildren, nurturing the spirit of awareness early on | Source: PHED Ladakh



### Day 3: Nyoma – Community Ownership in Action

Travelling via Rezang La (16,400 ft) and Tsaga La (17,400 ft), the AS&MD reached Mudh and Nyoma. A solar-powered pump in Mudh and household connections in Nyoma demonstrated how technology is being adapted to Ladakh's terrain.

What stood out was the Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) formally taking charge of operations. By collecting ₹50 per household per month, VWSCs in Mudh and Nyoma, both Vibrant Villages, have shown that community ownership can ensure both accountability and sustainability. This model, the AS&MD noted, is fit for replication elsewhere in the region. At Chumathang, an insulated service reservoir and waste management centre showcased complementary efforts under SBM-G.



Figure 40: Inspection of the solar-powered water pump

Source: PHED Ladakh



Figure 41: Inspection of FHTC to assess functionality and water availability

Source: PHED Ladakh



Figure 42: Inspection of the segregation shed developed under SBM-G | Source: PHED Ladakh





## Day 4: Innovation in Matho

The visit to Matho revealed one of Ladakh's most striking innovations, a 24x7 winter supply scheme based on a unique dripping technique that prevents pipelines from freezing even when temperatures drop below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The scheme delivers more than 70 LPCD to 359 families, backed by strong community participation. Beyond assured supply, it has also encouraged water conservation practices, ensuring that precious mountain resources are used judiciously.



Figure 43: 24x7 water supply scheme based on a unique dripping technique | Source: PHED Ladakh



Figure 44: A warm interaction with the villagers | Source: PHED Ladakh

During interactions, villagers expressed their satisfaction at receiving safe spring water, locally regarded as having medicinal properties, directly at their homes. The initiative was acknowledged as a pioneering example of community-led innovation in high-altitude conditions.

Recognising its success, the AS&MD described Matho as a learning model, directing technical teams to study the entire scheme design and assess how such innovations could be replicated in other cold regions of the country.

The visit concluded with a brief meeting with the Chief Secretary, where the AS&MD reiterated the need for:

- ◆ Notification of an O&M policy and formulation of tripartite MoUs.
- ◆ Mobilisation of communities for contribution of water tariff/ user charges
- ◆ Universal e-Gram Swaraj onboarding and Nal Jal Mitra nominations.
- ◆ Adoption of winter-friendly sanitation solutions.
- ◆ Expedited certification under Har Ghar Jal (JJM) and ODF Plus (SBM-G).
- ◆ Expedition of RPWSS IDs creation.

## A Region of Lessons

The Ladakh review highlighted that despite geographical isolation and climatic severity, communities are ready to take charge when provided with the right systems and support. From tariff-collecting VWSCs in Nyoma to the winter-proof innovation of Matho, Ladakh is building examples that resonate beyond its mountains.

The tour reaffirmed that sustainability in water and sanitation is not only about infrastructure but about institutions, innovation, and local ownership – a message as relevant in the valleys of Ladakh as in villages across India.



# Virtual Workshop on “Sustainability of Drinking Water” under Sujalam Bharat Summit

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

As part of the thematic conferences leading up to the Sujalam Bharat Summit, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, convened a virtual workshop on **“Sustainability of Drinking Water.”** The Summit, guided by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is one of six departmental events designed to channel grassroots insights into national policy. Anchored by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and coordinated by NITI Aayog, the main Summit is scheduled for November-end under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil.

The workshop was graced by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, and chaired by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (SBM(G) & JJM), along with Smt. Archana Verma, Additional



Figure 45: Virtual Workshop on “Sustainability of Drinking Water”  
under Sujalam Bharat Summit | Source: NJJM

Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission (NWM). It witnessed active participation from State Nodal Officers, Mission

Directors, District Collectors, sector experts, representatives from development partners, and over 300 officials from across DDWS, NWM, DoWR, and States/UTs.



Figure 46: Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, gracing the Workshop on “Sustainability of Drinking Water”  
under Sujalam Bharat Summit | Source: NJJM

Delivering the keynote address, Smt. Archana Verma, described the workshop as a platform to identify policy gaps and explore solutions from the field. She highlighted three priority areas i.e source sustainability, water quality, and operation & maintenance (O&M) and stressed the importance of convergence, particularly the effective use of MGNREGA funds for water conservation works. She reiterated the Prime Minister's vision for a Viksit Bharat and a water-secure nation by 2047.





In his context-setting address, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan emphasised that as Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) enters its next phase after completing six years, the focus must shift to strengthening sources, protecting assets, and ensuring sustainability. He clarified that sustainability goes beyond financial and physical aspects, encompassing institutional and community-led dimensions. He underlined the role of District Collectors and District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs) in planning and monitoring, while urging States to prioritise O&M of both Single Village Schemes (SVS) and Multi Village Schemes (MVS). Stressing Jan Bhagidari, he encouraged Panchayati Raj Institutions, Sarpanches, and VWSCs to play a proactive role in O&M.

Shri Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM, DDWS, presented the six-year journey of JJM, showcasing milestones in rural drinking water supply, progress on household tap connections, and the way forward. This was followed by a presentation by Smt. Mini Chandran, Scientist D, CGWB, who highlighted the status of aquifers, SOPs on groundwater-based source sustainability, and district-level recharge plans.

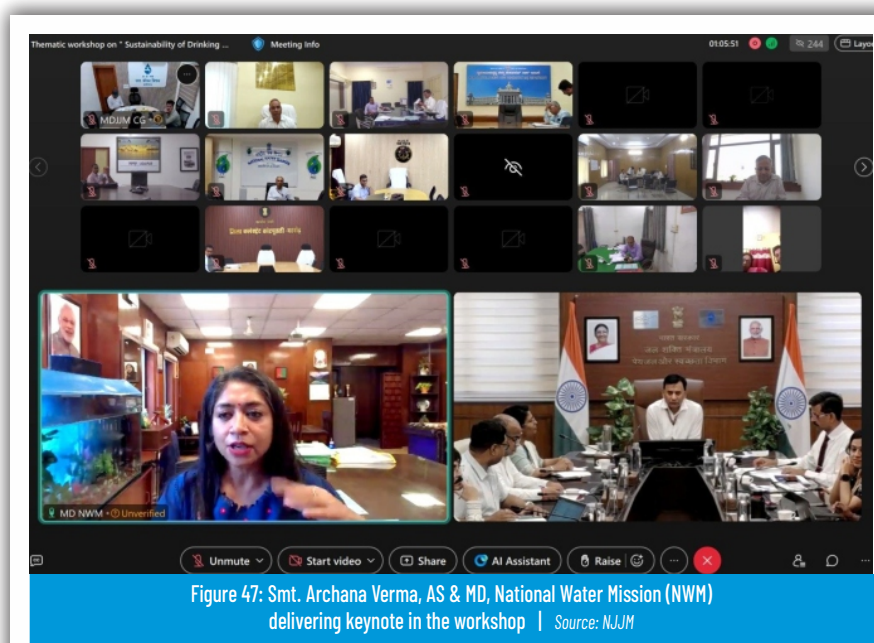
States including Assam, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh shared their experiences, highlighting achievements, challenges, and innovations for ensuring source sustainability of Piped Water Supply (PWS) schemes. Representatives from Biome Environmental Solutions and GuruJal also shared technical perspectives.

Grassroots voices added depth to the discussion. Members of VWSCs, including Ms. Reena Ahirwar (UP), Shri Rakesh Kumar (Bihar), and Shri Rakesh Mishra (MP), shared how JJM

has transformed their villages by addressing long-standing challenges.

The deliberations underscored that the sustainability of services is inseparable from the sustainability of sources. Effective aquifer recharge, watershed management, and conservation practices must balance community needs with ecological security.

Concluding the workshop, Smt. Archana Verma reaffirmed that sustainability must remain at the core of JJM's next phase, while Shri Kamal Kishore Soan thanked participants for their valuable contributions. The insights gathered will feed into the Sujalam Bharat Summit deliberations, shaping a roadmap for sustainable water and sanitation management in the country.



## Meetings and Workshops

**S**h. Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary - DDWS, chaired a virtual review meeting with Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh on 16.09.25 to review water supply projects under #JalJeevanMission with outlay more than ₹1,000 crore.



Figure 49: Secretary DDWS chairing the meeting | Source: NJJM

A total of 30 mega projects were discussed in detail. The Secretary directed States to present each project, clearly stating the need for the project, progress achieved so far, implementation timelines, and the benefits that will accrue upon completion. He emphasised the importance of balancing the macro perspective with micro detailing, ensuring that these large-scale investments not only expand infrastructure but also strengthen long-term service delivery, sustainability, and community impact. The meeting was attended by representatives from respective States and senior officials from NJJM

## Review of 1,000 Crore and above JJM project by Secretary, DDWS

**S**hri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary - DDWS, chaired a virtual review meeting with States on 10.09.25 to review water supply projects under #JalJeevanMission with outlay more than ₹1,000 crore.



Figure 50: Secretary DDWS chairing the meeting | Source: NJJM

A total of 37 mega projects were discussed in detail. The Secretary directed States to present each project, clearly stating the need for the project, progress achieved so far, implementation timelines, and the benefits that will accrue upon completion.

He emphasised the importance of balancing the macro perspective with micro detailing, ensuring that these large-scale investments not only expand infrastructure but also strengthen long-term service delivery, sustainability, and community impact.

The meeting was attended by representatives from respective State and senior officials from NJJM.





## State Review meeting

**S**hri Ashok K K Meena - Secretary, DDWS chaired a virtual review meeting with States and UTs on 09.09.2025 to assess the progress and implementation status of #JalJeevanMission.



Figure 51: Secretary DDWS chairing the meeting | Source: NJJM

The Secretary emphasised on source sustainability, convergence of schemes such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, 15th Finance Commission and State Finance Commission funds, and ensuring sustainable progress in rural water service delivery. He stressed the importance of ground-truthing of data, addressing discrepancies in reporting, and regularly reviewing the functionality of FHTCs as reflected on dashboards. Further, he urged States/UTs to make optimum use of SWSM and DWSM dashboards for monitoring outcomes and accountability.

Representatives from all States/UTs and officials of NJJM attended the meeting and assured focused action on the key priorities highlighted.

## JJM Samvad with Collectors

So far, over 705 DMs/ DCs have participated in #JJMSamvad. The meeting was attended by state authorities, along with other officials from NJJM.



Figure 52: AS&MD-NJJM chaired 29th #JalJeevanSamvad meeting with DMs/ DCs of 29 districts of #AndhraPradesh and #Karnataka on 03.09.2025 to review the progress and implementation of the #JalJeevanMission in the State.

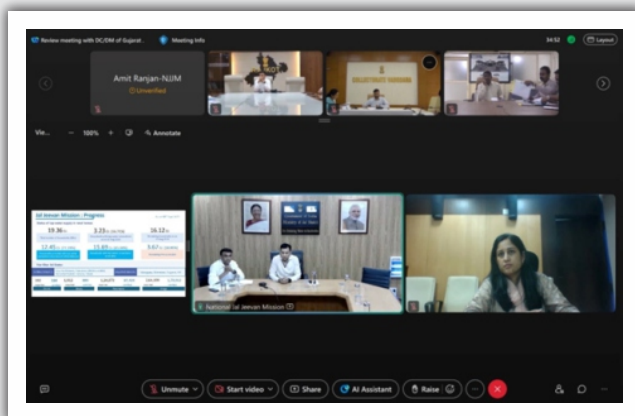


Figure 53: AS&MD-NJJM chaired 30th #JalJeevanSamvad meeting with DMs/ DCs of 8 districts of #Gujarat on 08.09.2025 to review the progress and implementation of the #JalJeevanMission in the State.

## Snippets

The Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 3rd September, 2025 to strengthen collaboration in ensuring the development of Swachh and Sujal Gaon across the country.



Figure 54: Secretary and officials of DDWS with QCI team | Source: DDWS

## Water Quality awareness fortnight campaign in Jammu and Kashmir



Figure 55: Display during campaign | Source: PHED J&K

Kudos to J&K for successfully concluding a 15-day intensive campaign on preventing water-borne diseases & boosting water quality testing in flood/landslide-hit areas. A commendable step for public health!

Launched on Sept 4, 2025, J&K's 15-day campaign post-floods showcased Jal Jeevan Mission's commitment to preventing water-borne diseases & restoring water infra. A strong step toward resilient service delivery!

J&K carried out intensive water quality testing in flood-hit areas through PHE labs, ensuring 3+ tests per village at source & consumer points. A proactive move to safeguard public health!

J&K's local communities & departments (health, education, RDD) played a key role in water testing & awareness in 6,486 schools & 1,940 AWCs. Over 5,945 AWCs covered with 2,563 centres promoting water safety & WASH practices.





## India's Jal Jeevan Mission Pushing India's Growth During Covid | Deepak Bagla Elaborates

In a keynote at the Republic Business Leadership Conclave, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Mission Director Deepak Bagla reflected on how India's growth story during and after COVID-19 was also strengthened by transformative initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission. Formerly CEO of Invest India and now leading AIM under NITI Aayog, Bagla emphasized that while the pandemic posed unprecedented challenges, it also accelerated reforms and commitments to grassroots development, with the Jal Jeevan Mission ensuring tap water connections reached millions of rural households at a crucial time. This not only safeguarded public health during the crisis but also created ripple effects in improving quality of life, empowering women, and enabling children to focus on education rather than water collection.



Scan below to  
watch the episode

15 Crore+ rural households now enjoy freedom of clean water taps with Jal Jeevan Mission

Har Ghar Jal

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## Yojana's WaSH Special Edition (September 2025) is Now Out!

**T**his special issue brings together policy directions, state-level innovations, and field experiences that highlight India's progress in ensuring *Har Ghar Jal*, sanitation coverage, improved hygiene, and water conservation initiatives.

### Why This Edition Matters

India's remarkable progress in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) is not just about infrastructure; it is about dignity, health, and empowerment. This edition of *Yojana* captures the nation's journey of transformation under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and Jal Jeevan Mission, while also looking ahead to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.



Blending policy insights, grassroots stories, and practitioner experiences, it serves as an authentic reference for aspirants, policymakers, and development professionals alike.

### Inside the September 2025 WaSH Special Edition

This WaSH Special Issue features contributions from the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil, and the Hon'ble Ministers of State, Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary. Alongside, senior officials, practitioners, and field experts present a 360-degree view of India's WaSH journey.

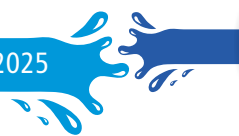
Readers will find perspectives on community empowerment and Jan Bhagidari, showcasing how rural households and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) are taking ownership of water and sanitation systems. The issue also dives into water quality surveillance and testing, underlining its role in ensuring safe drinking water for all.

A strong emphasis is placed on sustainability and resilience, with discussions on source sustainability, rainwater harvesting, greywater management, and the innovative Jal Shakti Abhiyan–Catch the Rain (CTR) campaign, which is mobilising collective action to recharge aquifers and safeguard water resources.

Importantly, the edition explores the convergence of schemes and programmes, illustrating how partnerships across ministries, state governments, and community institutions are creating holistic solutions. From school hygiene and behavioural change to women's leadership in WaSH, the special issue captures the breadth and depth of India's transformative efforts.

### Why You Should Read It

Together, these contributions make the September 2025 WaSH Special Edition of *Yojana* a must-read for policymakers, students, aspirants, and development professionals. It not only documents achievements but also provides a clear roadmap for building healthier, more resilient villages, and a stronger India.







Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

# Jal Jeevan Samvad



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