Jal Jeevan Samvad

October | Volume 6 | Issue 10 | Year 2025

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Theme: Peyjal Samvad
A Cross-Learning & District Dialogues Series

Articles by JS (Water), & DS, NJJM and DC/ DMs of Eleven Districts

Contents

Editor: **Yogendra Kumar Singh,** Director, NJJM

Editorial Team: Chanchal Kumar Modi, Lopamudra Panda, Amit Kumar Ranjan, Arpan De Sarkar, Shailika Sinha

Design: Arif Khan

Edition: 61st (October 2025)

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

Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Another important subject is water conservation. Today, the country is working through the Jal Jeevan Mission to bring clean water to every village. The Jal Jeevan Mission is one of the most unique campaigns in the world. However, we must remember that these systems will only serve their purpose if enough water remains for future generations. To achieve this, we are promoting drip irrigation and have already created over 60,000 Amrit Sarovars (sacred ponds) across the country. But alongside government efforts, society too must come forward. Traditionally, every village had ponds, lakes, wells, and water tanks, but with changing times, many of them were neglected and dried up. We must continuously make people aware of the need to restore and protect these natural water sources. "Catch the Rain", which is a government campaign, constructing recharge wells, and using rainwater for groundwater recharge are the need of the hour.

- Hon'ble PM's address at the International Arya Mahasammelan 2025 in New Delhi, 31st Ocober, 2025

Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

C R Patil
Minister of Jal Shakti

कभी इस देश में ऐसा समय था जब 9 करोड़ से अधिक महिलाएँ रोज़ाना मीलों दूर तक पानी लाने के लिए जाती थीं। सिर पर मटका उठाकर लंबी दूरी तय करना उनकी रोज़मर्रा की मजबूरी थी। केवल पानी भरने में ही देश की महिलाओं के 5 करोड़ घंटे प्रतिदिन खर्च हो जाते थे। इतना ही नहीं, जो पानी वे बड़ी कठिनाई से लाती थीं, उसकी गुणवत्ता भी अक्सर पीने योग्य नहीं होती थी।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री सर ने इस पीड़ा को समझा और महिलाओं के जीवन को सहज बनाने के लिए "हर घर जल" जैसी ऐतिहासिक योजना की शुरुआत की। इसका उद्देश्य केवल नल कनेक्शन देना नहीं बल्कि हर घर तक शुद्ध, सुरक्षित और गुणवत्तापूर्ण जल पहुँचाना था, ताकि देश की बेटियों, बहनों और माताओं को अब पानी के लिए दूर न जाना पड़े। आज इस दूरदर्शी नीति का परिणाम है कि 15 करोड़ से अधिक घरों तक स्वच्छ जल पहुँच चुका है और 4 करोड़ घरों में जल पहुँचाने का कार्य तेज़ी से प्रगति पर है।

कुछ जगहों से "नल तो है पर जल नहीं" जैसी शिकायतें मिलीं, जिन्हें प्रधानमंत्री श्री ने बेहद गंभीरता से लिया। उन्होंने स्पष्ट निर्देश दिए कि जब तक जल आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित नहीं होती, तब तक फण्ड नहीं मिलेगा, क्योंकि इस योजना का लक्ष्य कांट्रैक्टर को काम देना नहीं, बल्कि देश के हर घर तक जल पहुँचाना है। देश की करोड़ों महिलाओं के जीवन में सहजता, सुरक्षा और सम्मान लाने वाली इस परिवर्तनकारी पहल के लिए प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्रभाई मोदी सर के प्रति हृदय से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ ।

स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित जल स्वस्थ जीवन का आधार है। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री सर के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में "हर घर जल" का संकल्प आज अभूतपूर्व रूप से साकार हो रहा है। देश के 19 करोड़ घरों में से 16 करोड़ घरों तक नल से जल पहुँचाने की ऐतिहासिक योजना बनाई गई। इनमें से 12 करोड़ घरों को नए कनेक्शन देने के साथ-साथ जल स्रोतों को सुदृढ़ कर शुद्ध पानी उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था भी की गई। सिर्फ पानी पहुँचाना ही नहीं, बल्कि उसकी गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करना भी इस मिशन का मुख्य उद्देश्य रहा। इसी दिशा में 5 लाख गाँवों में 25 लाख से अधिक महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया गया, जो आज जल की शुद्धता की पहचान कर रही हैं और हर घर में स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा की गारंटी बन रही हैं।

- Post mentioned on X handle

Foreword

Every large-scale mission reaches a stage where expansion must give way to endurance, where the question shifts from how much we build to how well we sustain. The Jal Jeevan Mission has now reached over 15 crore rural households with tap water connections – a remarkable achievement in scale and speed. Yet, our focus today is no longer just on expanding coverage; it has shifted towards ensuring continuity, maintaining quality, upholding accountability and strengthening Jan Bhagidari. This is the transition from infrastructure creation to assured service delivery, and this month has embodied that change in spirit and structure.

The launch of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad series marks a turning point in how we engage with district administrations – the pivotal link between policy and people. The first and second editions held this month created a vibrant space for dialogue, learning, and leadership. They brought together DCs/DMs from across the country to deliberate on the evolving priorities of the Mission. These sessions reaffirmed a central truth that sustainable service delivery begins with empowered districts and informed communities. Equally transformative has been the introduction of the upgraded Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) ID Module, which gives every water supply scheme in the country a unique digital identity.

This edition of Jal Jeevan Samvad captures that spirit of dialogue and collaboration. It features insightful articles from the districts that presented their initiatives and best practices, offering a rich, cross-learning experience. These stories from the field reflect how innovation, local ownership, and community participation are redefining rural water governance across India.

The progress of Jal Jeevan Mission is not only technical; it is deeply social and institutional. Water-quality management, source sustainability, operation and maintenance, and capacity building have all become the Mission's cornerstones. Through Jan Bhagidari, citizens are not passive recipients but active partners, shaping, sustaining, and strengthening the systems that serve them.

At the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, our determination remains steadfast. We are in relentless pursuit of excellence – engineering new solutions, refining old ones, and building governance frameworks that can endure the test of time. Each initiative, whether digital innovation or local empowerment, is a step toward a resilient and self-reliant water ecosystem for rural India.

Just as science transforms lives through discovery, the Mission transforms communities through participation. Its success rests not in milestones crossed but in systems strengthened – systems that deliver today, adapt tomorrow, and endure always. As we look ahead, Har Ghar Jal is not the finish line; it is the foundation of a new national confidence, that India can secure its water future through foresight, partnership, and purpose.

This edition of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* embodies that spirit – of learning, collaboration, and continuity. I hope every reader finds it both enriching and inspiring, and sees in these pages the shared resolve that defines our work: to ensure that every drop delivered is a drop sustained, and every effort made is an investment in the nation's well-being.

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

Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

This month has been a truly pivotal one for Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) as Jal Jeevan Mission moves decisively from achievement to assurance – from laying infrastructure to ensuring sustained service. In October, we successfully organised the first and second editions of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, and took another major stride by launching the upgraded RPWSS-ID module, ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability in rural water supply.

At the first District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, we brought together District Collectors and Mission Directors from across the country in a national dialogue that set the tone for this next phase of JJM. The discussions focused on governance, digital monitoring, and empowering district-level institutions to take charge of operations and maintenance, water-quality surveillance, and community participation. The second edition built on that momentum, delving into source sustainability, lifecycle asset management and regulatory safeguards. These sessions reflect our conviction that rural water supply will remain robust only when local leaders are engaged, systems are monitored and communities are empowered.

Parallel to these dialogues, we marked a critical milestone with the demonstration of the upgraded Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) module. As the official press release states, this module will serve as a cornerstone of transparency, accountability and efficiency under JJM. By assigning a unique digital identity (RPWSS ID) to every rural piped water supply scheme across the country, we are creating a national digital registry that enables geo-tagging, real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance and data-backed decision-making. States and Union Territories have been urged to complete the creation of RPWSS IDs by November 2025, ensuring full digital coverage and integrity.

This month also carried the Mission's voice to the global stage. Secretary, DDWS, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, delivered a presentation on "India's Rural Water Programming" at the UNC Water and Health Conference 2025, hosted by the University of North Carolina Water Institute in the USA. The presentation drew wide attention to India's integrated approach, combining infrastructure with institution-building, digital tools, and community participation, a model now seen as a scalable example for other developing nations.

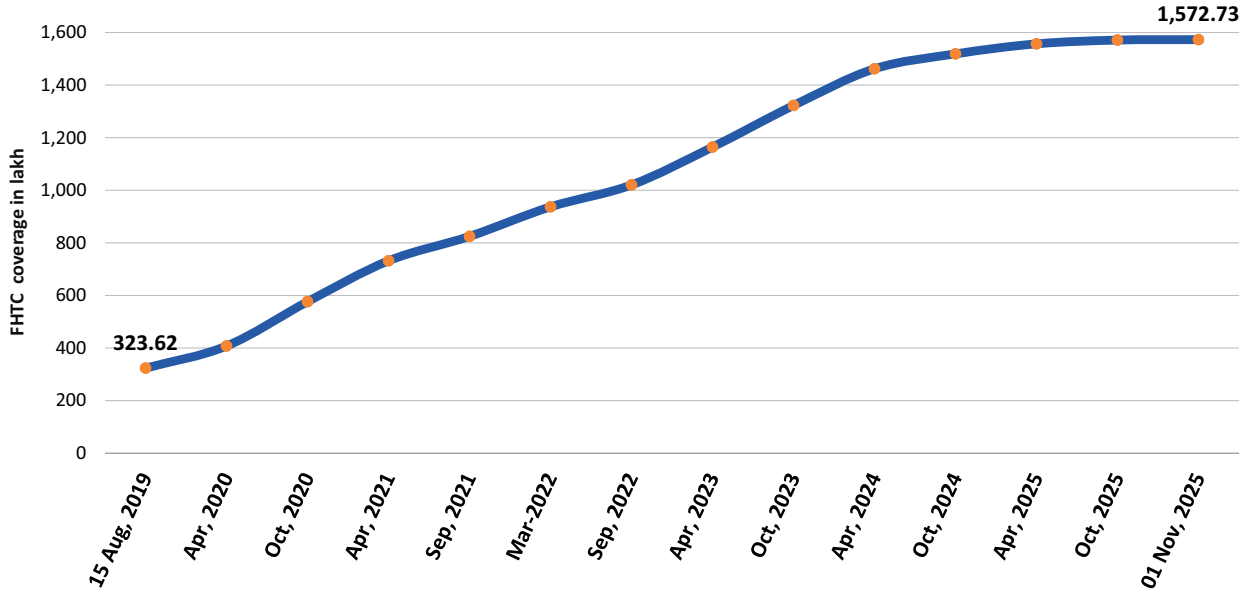
What does this mean on the ground? First, for water-quality assurance: our work is shifting from "Have tap connections been installed?" to "Are those taps consistently working and delivering safe water every day?" Training of women as Field Testing Kit operators, strengthening of laboratories, and embedding of community surveillance are all critical to this shift. Source sustainability too is receiving its rightful priority: recharge works, grey-water reuse, participatory catchment interventions and institutional convergence are moving centre-stage.

As we close October, there is a sense that the Mission is entering a new rhythm. Progress and preservation are not opposing instincts. Within every community that builds, there is also a will to sustain. The Jal Jeevan Mission, in many ways, embodies this dual rhythm – the drive to expand, and the discipline to endure.

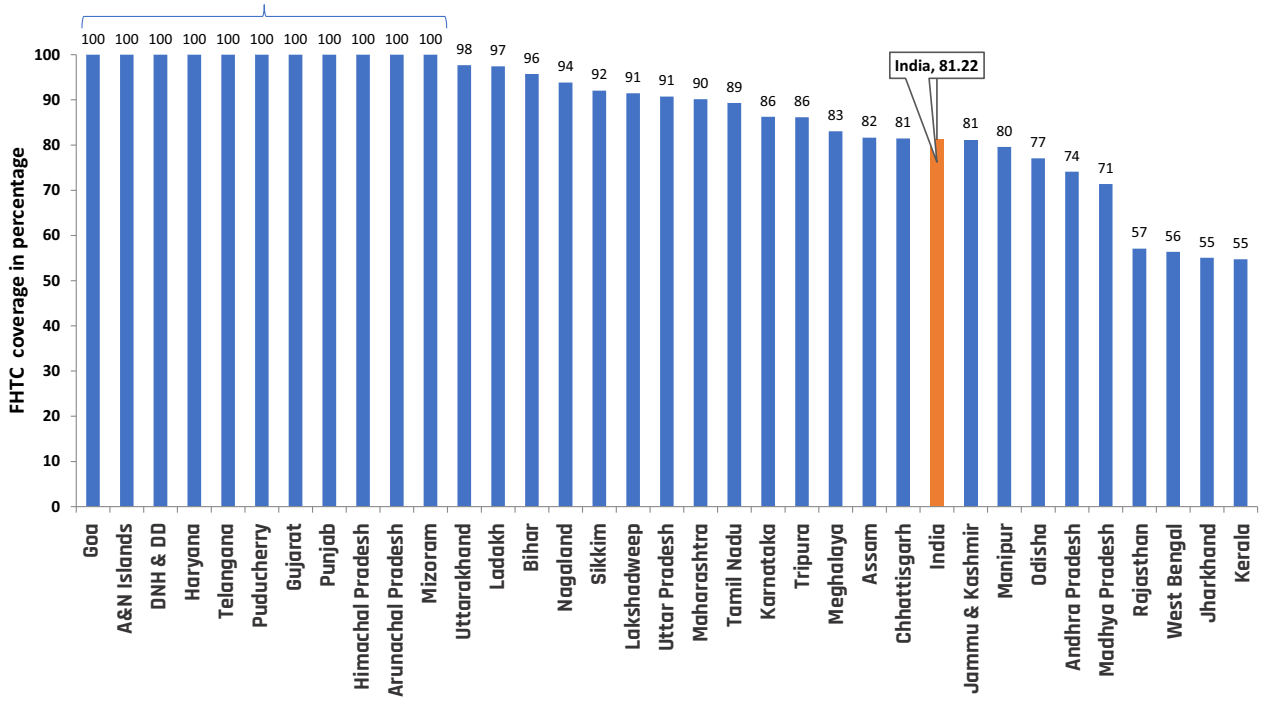
Throughout this, *Jan Bhagidari* remains our guiding principle. Service delivery will only be meaningful if citizens see their water system as theirs, if Gram Panchayats play a visibly active role in governance, if local committees handle O&M and feel the ownership. Our digital infrastructure, the RPWSS ID module, is meant to enhance not replace this human governance foundation. It is the tool; the people are the custodians. As systems mature and communities take charge, the Mission's story moves beyond numbers to something deeper: the steady, collective act of ensuring that what we have built continues to serve, to last, and to belong.

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)



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

As on 31st October, 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
19,36,37,739	3,23,62,838 (16.71%)	+13,065 15,72,73,996 (81.22%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,49,11,158 (77.45%)

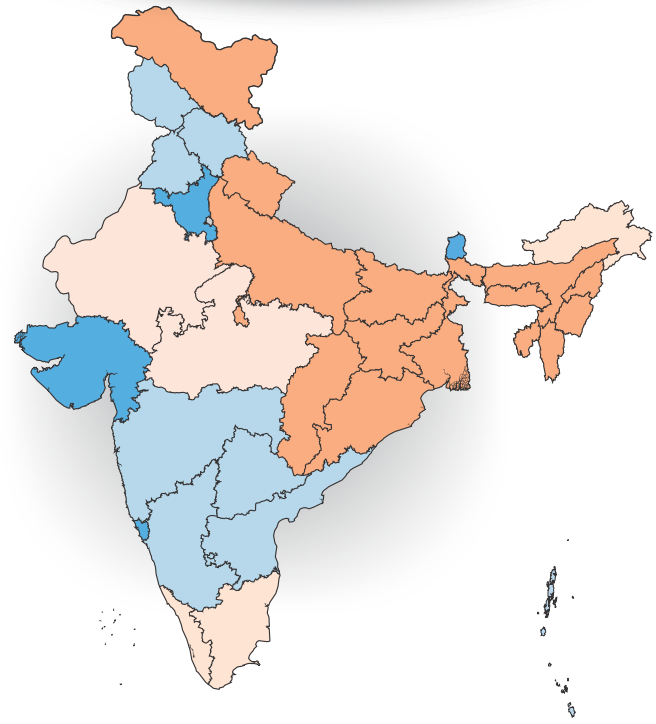
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

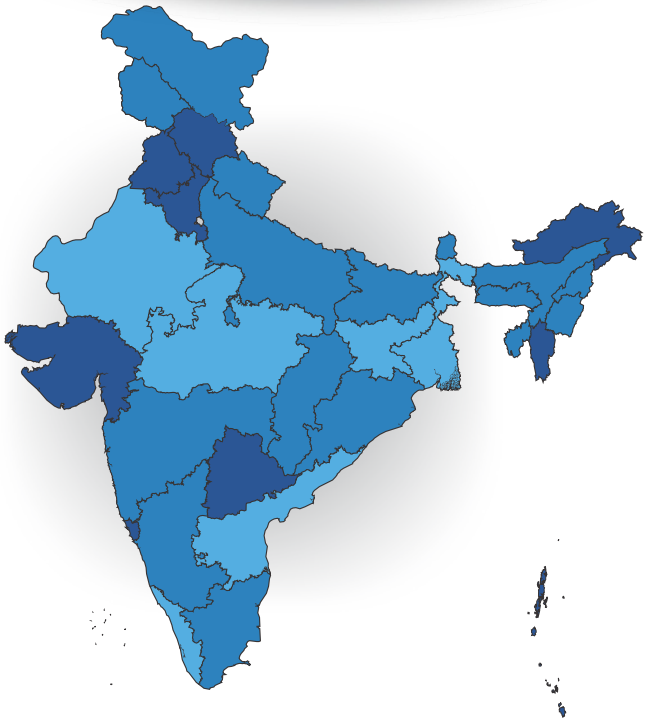
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat

100% FHTC Districts	100% FHTC Blocks	100% FHTC Panchayats	100% FHTC Villages
192	1,912	1,25,345	2,66,618

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 31st October, 2025



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

District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad under JJM

Strengthening Local Governance for Sustainable Rural Water Service Delivery

- NJJM

As India's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) reaches a defining moment, providing tap water access to over 15.7 crore rural households, covering more than 81% of rural India, the focus has now shifted from creation to continuity. The mission's success no longer lies in pipes laid or connections made, but in how effectively these systems are managed, monitored, and maintained at the grassroots.

And at the heart of this transformation stands a vital force — the District Collector.

District administrations serve as the critical bridge between policy and people, translating national goals into local realities. Recognising this, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, launched the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad (DCPS) — a first-of-its-kind national dialogue designed to empower district leadership, foster innovation, and institutionalise local accountability in rural water governance.

The First Edition: Building a Culture of Data, Accountability, and Dialogue

The first District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, held on 14th October 2025, was chaired by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, in the presence of Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), and Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary, NJJM.

Figure 1: Secretary DDWS, Shri Ashok KK Meena chairing the 1st District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad | Source: NJJM

Over 700 District Collectors and Mission Directors joined this virtual dialogue, marking a major milestone in decentralising decision-making and establishing JJM's next phase of governance reform.

In his keynote address, Secretary Ashok Meena highlighted that JJM's achievements represent the beginning of a new chapter — one centred on institutional consolidation, sustainability, and community-led accountability. "We must make local institutions the backbone of rural water services," he said, "where

Figure 2: Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD, NJJM setting the context | Source: NJJM

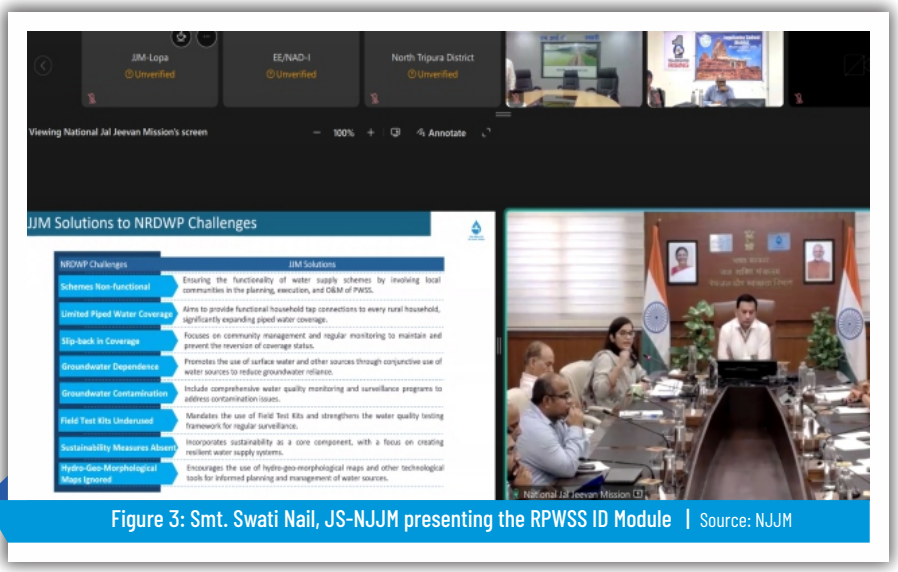


Figure 3: Smt. Swati Nail, JS-NJJM presenting the RPWSS ID Module | Source: NJJM

decisions are data-driven, operations are accountable, and communities are empowered to sustain what has been built."

The session also showcased how digital transformation is redefining governance. Smt. Swati Meena Naik presented the Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) ID Module — a digital innovation that assigns a unique identity to every rural water supply scheme. This allows real-time tracking, predictive maintenance, and transparent monitoring of water systems, linking every village pipeline to its functional status, source sustainability, and maintenance records.

Integrated with PM Gati Shakti, the module enables spatial mapping and convergence across departments. For District Administrations, the RPWSS ID means sharper visibility. They can monitor functionality across Gram Panchayats, identify gaps quickly, rank performance, and plan preventive maintenance instead of reactive repairs. Coordination between departments becomes smoother because everyone works off the same data set.

At the Gram Panchayat level, the module simplifies daily operations. Geo-referenced layouts and digital maps highlight every stretch of the pipeline network. Early damage detection and maintenance scheduling are no longer guesswork. With asset and aquifer data available at a glance, long-term budgeting and sustainability planning gain precision.

The module also connects the dots between village data and state-level decisions—so that what happens at a household tap can inform policy and financing at the top. Every stage, from planning to expenditure, becomes traceable and verifiable.

Most importantly, the platform keeps citizens in the loop. People can view digital maps, track pipeline routes right up to their homes, access water-quality information online, and lodge grievances through linked platforms. Transparency replaces opacity, and participation becomes part of the service model itself.

As Smt. Naik explained, DCs and DWSM are the fulcrum of this new digital ecosystem. Their role – ensuring accurate mapping, validating data, and coordinating across departments, is what turns technology into better service delivery. By giving every scheme a verifiable digital identity, the Mission is embedding efficiency, accountability, and trust into the very fabric of rural water governance.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-NJJM, underlined that JJM has evolved into a movement of governance reform. He emphasised the need for visible regulatory arrangements and protection of rural water infrastructure, stressing that District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad will be institutionalised as a recurring platform for peer learning and innovation exchange across districts.

The session featured presentations from **East Khasi Hills (Meghalaya), Ganjam (Odisha), Ratnagiri**

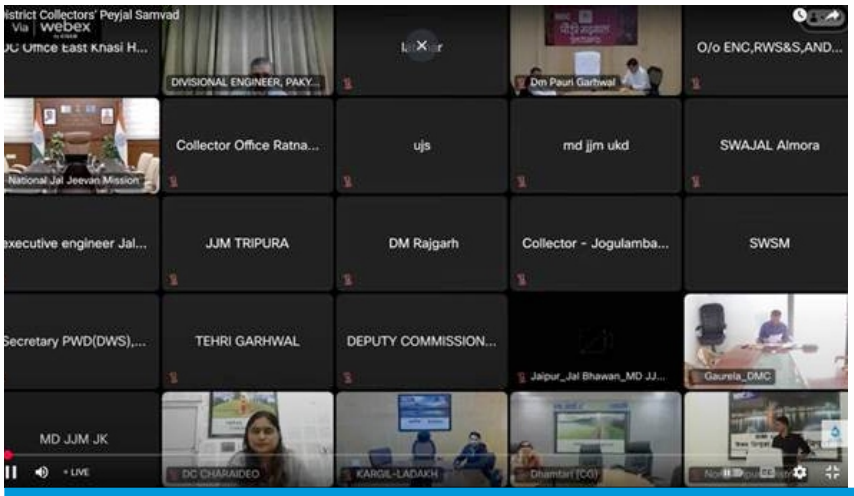


Figure 4: DCs/DMs and officials from across States/ UTs participate in the interactive dialogues | Source: NJJM

(Maharashtra), Charaideo (Assam), Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh), and North Tripura (Tripura). These districts shared their experiences in advancing sustainable rural water governance, from **source protection and catchment plantations to robust monitoring mechanisms, SHG-led O&M models, and technology-enabled grievance redressal platforms.** Each initiative reflected a shared commitment to strengthening community ownership and transparency.

The first edition thus laid the foundation where data, dialogue, and decentralisation converge.

The Second Edition: Deepening the Dialogue on Sustainability and Regulation

Building on the success of the inaugural dialogue, the second edition of District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad was held on 30th October 2025, chaired by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-NJJM.

If the first Samvad focused on governance and data accountability, the second brought the spotlight firmly on source sustainability — the cornerstone of any enduring water service delivery model.

The AS&MD opened the session by commending districts for translating the insights from the first edition into measurable outcomes. He outlined the next steps guiding JJM's journey — convergence with MGNREGA for recharge and water harvesting works and the establishment of Protected Drinking Water Zones (PDWZs) for safeguarding rural infrastructure.

He emphasised preventive governance, community vigilance, and regular inspection protocols to ensure long-term functionality. "District Collectors are the key functionaries," he said, "and their leadership will determine how strong and sustainable our systems remain."

Figure 5: Smt. Swati Meena Naik, JS-NJJM, taking participants through the RPWSS digital initiatives and monitoring framework | Source: NJJM

Figure 6: Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-NJJM, chairing the 2nd edition of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad | Source: NJJM

Harnessing Science: DSS for Source Sustainability

At the core of this edition was the introduction of the Decision Support System (DSS) — a data-driven framework developed in collaboration with BISAG-N to scientifically plan, assess, and protect drinking water sources.

Smt. Swati Meena Naik, JS-NJJM elaborated on how the DSS integrates hydro-geomorphology, climatic, and spatial datasets to identify recharge zones, assess groundwater vulnerability, and recommend interventions tailored to each district's hydrological reality.

Smt. Ankita Chakraborty, DS-NJJM, demonstrated how the portal performs Artificial Water Recharge Requirement (AWRR) analysis and prepares District Source Sustainability Action Plans (DSSAPs). Through geo-tagged data and PM Gati Shakti integration, the system provides a 360-degree view of water assets, from aquifers to pipelines,

ensuring every scheme is scientifically planned, locally maintained, and digitally visible.

Districts at the Forefront: Local Models, National Lessons

The dialogue also spotlighted five districts whose innovative models are redefining what sustainable, inclusive water governance looks like on the ground:

- **Gadchiroli, Maharashtra:** From 8.37% to 93% tap connection coverage through Solar Dual-Pump Mini Water Supply Schemes, ensuring year-round supply even in Naxal-affected and remote habitations.
- **Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh:** Achieved Har Ghar Jal across all 248 Gram Panchayats through Jal Nal Mitras, FTK testers, and a district-led functionality monitoring framework.
- **Dang, Gujarat:** Pioneered women-led Pani Samitis under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Pani Samiti Protsahan Yojana, linking performance incentives with O&M efficiency and revenue collection.
- **Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir:** Transitioned from tanker-fed villages to water-secure communities, with a 6,600 km network, 228 filtration plants, and a ₹60 crore multi-village scheme serving 75,000 people.
- **Bokaro, Jharkhand:** Empowered *Jal Sahiyas*: women trained in O&M and water testing — with an E-Jal Kar Portal for billing and monitoring, building transparency and trust.

Each of these stories reflects a shared truth that the future of rural water lies in community hands, guided by informed and empowered administration.

Towards a Future of Shared Custodianship

Through these dialogues, the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad has evolved into more than an event; it is now a process, a platform, and a philosophy.

By uniting technology with trust, and governance with ground realities, the Peyjal Samvad embodies the essence of *Jan Bhagidari* – collective ownership for collective good. Each edition strengthens the ecosystem of accountability, innovation, and sustainability, connecting every district's learning to the national mission's vision.

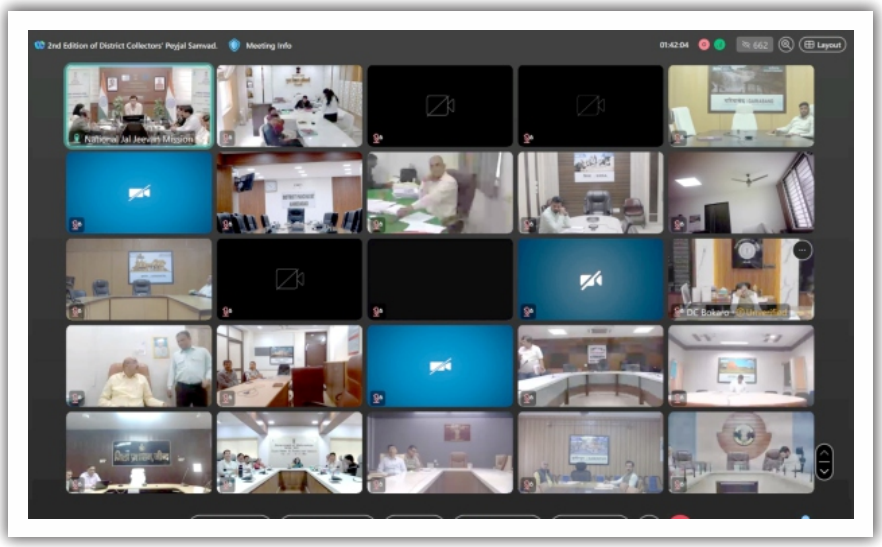


Figure 7: Over 800 participants, including DCs/ DMs, and officials from across States/ Uts, joined virtually in the 2nd edition of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad | Source: NJJM

The Department has announced that Peyjal Samvad will now be institutionalised as a recurring national platform, ensuring that best practices continue to flow as freely as the water systems they represent.

Conclusion: From Milestones to Mindsets

Jal Jeevan Mission has shown that delivering tap water to every home is achievable. But sustaining it requires a shift, from projects to processes, from systems to stewardship, and from governance to guardianship.

In this new phase, the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad stands as a symbol of this evolution – a space where science meets service, policy meets practice, and administration meets aspiration.

> As Shri Kamal Kishore Soan aptly said,
>
> *"जल बचेगा, तो जल रहेगा – और अगर रहेगा, तो मिलेगा."*
>
> *(If we save water, it will endure – and only if it endures, will it reach everyone.)*

That is the spirit of this dialogue – not a conclusion, but a continuum. A continuum towards a future where every village stands resilient, every source remains secure, and every drop of water becomes a shared responsibility.

Digital Transformation of Jal Jeevan Mission:
Building a Smarter, Transparent Future for Rural Water Governance

- **Swati Meena Naik,** Joint Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission, DDWS

Swati Meena Naik

Building a Future Where Every Drop Counts

The Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS) is going to play a vital role in transforming rural India's access to clean water. Coupled with the PM Gati Shakti framework, this is accelerating the nation's progress towards 'Har Ghar Jal' to 'Sujal Gaon' ensuring no one is left behind.

The supply of piped drinking water in rural households is more than a convenience—it is a quiet revolution. It means women no longer walk miles for a pot of water, children spend more time in school instead of fetching water, and families enjoy better health as waterborne diseases recede. It is dignity restored, and drudgery reduced, freeing time for livelihoods and learning.

As the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) moves from its implementation phase to a focused Operation & Maintenance (O&M) phase, the narrative shifts from mere infrastructure creation to **smart management, transparency, and sustainability**. This strategic transition ensures that rural water supply systems remain functional for the long term, powered by Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and strengthened through an O&M database anchored in unique RPWSS IDs. This digital transformation is a step towards accountability, efficiency, and resilience—so that every drop delivered today continues to flow tomorrow.

From Implementation to Sustainability: The O&M Transition

Post-Independence, the Government of India has undertaken numerous initiatives to ensure access to safe drinking water for rural communities. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG-6) of the United Nations, focused on clean water and sanitation, India has progressively worked towards providing every household with safe and adequate drinking water within their premises.

When JJM was launched, only **17%** of rural households had access to piped water supply. Today, that number stands at **over 81%**, reflecting the mission's transformative impact. Having achieved massive coverage, the focus is now shifting from infrastructure creation to **Operation and Maintenance (O&M)**—ensuring that every tap continues to deliver safe, reliable water every day.

The mission emphasizes sustainable service delivery, with a strong focus on Operations & Maintenance (O&M) through Janbhagidari (community participation). It empowers Gram Panchayats and local communities to take ownership of water resource management, fostering transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

RPWSS: A Digital Backbone for Rural Water Systems Empowering Local Governance

The Eleventh Schedule of India's Constitution explicitly places rural water supply under Panchayati Raj authority. This constitutional commitment to decentralized governance is not merely administrative—it reflects the principle that sustainable infrastructure depends on local ownership and stewardship. However, decentralization without information flow leads to isolation. Hence, a persistent governance gap exists between the statutory mandate of Gram Panchayats and their technical capacity for sustainable management of rural piped water systems. The RPWSS foundational Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) mitigates this gap through a model of 'connected decentralization,'

integrating local autonomy with centralized data intelligence and structured technical support.

Under the **RPWSS initiative**, every piped water scheme—from the source to the habitation—receives a **unique digital ID**. This ID allows each scheme to be digitally tracked, monitored, and managed, transforming water delivery into a **data-driven service**.

The RPWSS is anchored by **GIS-based digital asset registry** that captures every component of a scheme: sources, treatment plants, pipelines, valves, pumps, and distribution networks. Integrated with the **PM Gati Shakti** platform, this registry offers **spatial visibility** of the entire rural water infrastructure, enabling better planning, coordination, and maintenance.

Already, over **25 lakh km of pipelines** and **14 lakh+ assets** have been geo-tagged and uploaded to the system, laying the groundwork for a truly **digital and transparent water governance ecosystem**.

By leveraging **RPWSS-ID integrated with the PM Gati Shakti platform**, stakeholders will gain a comprehensive, spatial view of water supply schemes within their jurisdiction, enabling informed decision-making and promoting the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure.

Envisioned as a foundational tool for future O&M, RPWSS-ID clearly defines roles and responsibilities by linking each asset to its designated utility whether for in-village or out-village O&M. This forms a **robust Digital Public Infrastructure for water governance**. Forming Digital Public Infrastructure for water will enable

- **Quicker Response & Coordination** - Real-time visibility and faster decision-making.
- **O&M Tracking** - Lifecycle monitoring and automated maintenance scheduling.
- **Traceability** - Unique IDs ensure auditability and historical tracking.
- **Interoperability** - Supports integration with other systems via APIs.
- **Flexibility** - Accommodates legacy schemes and shared infrastructure.

The creation of RPWSS-ID envisioned to empower key stakeholders *viz.* SWSM, DWSM, VWSCs, PHED, State Rural Water Supply Departments, Utilities, and GPs by enabling precise identification and mapping of all water schemes and associated assets. This digital framework facilitates real-time monitoring of water supply systems and asset functionality, allowing for efficient planning of maintenance, repairs, and infrastructure upgrades.

The digital transformation is designed to **strengthen local institutions**, particularly **District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs)** and **Gram Panchayats (GPs)**.

DWSMs are now tasked with a broader governance and oversight. Their responsibilities include:

- Administrative oversight of Third-Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs)
- Steering the Nal Jal Mitra program for community engagement
- Monitoring asset creation and commissioning of schemes
- Handing over in-village infrastructure to Gram Panchayats after capacity building
- Establishing District Command & Control Centres with technical units to support GPs
- Conducting regular functionality assessments of schemes
- Regulatory oversight on infrastructure physical security from damage and sabotage
- Acting as the regulatory authority for resolving operational disputes
- Managing disputes between macro utilities (out-village, managed by departments/ parastatals) and micro utilities (in-village, managed by Panchayats)
- Ensuring functional linkage of all scheme components and overseeing source contamination control.
- Ensuring functional linkage of all scheme components
- Monitoring source contamination
- Preventing repetition or duplication in pipeline uploads on PM Gati Shakti

For District Administrations, RPWSS brings:

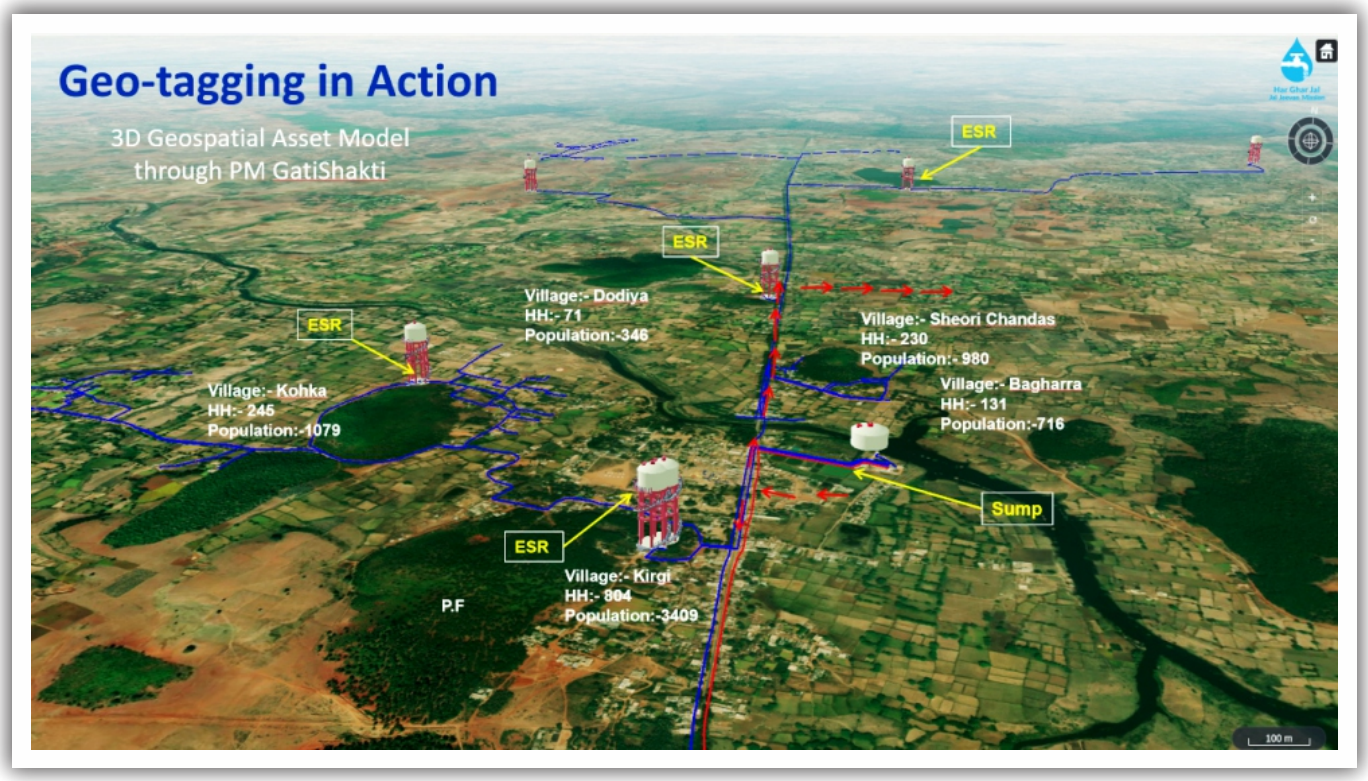
- **Administrative dashboards** offering a complete overview of water assets and supply schemes.
- **Real-time monitoring** of scheme functionality, water volumes, and habitation coverage.
- **Predictive maintenance tools** and digital records that support quick disaster recovery and reduce operational costs.
- **Improved coordination** through integration with **PM Gati Shakti** and other government digital tools.

Citizen-Centric Transparency and Jan Bhagidari

At the citizen level, the RPWSS platform promotes **transparency and participatory governance (Jan Bhagidari)**. Villagers can now:

- Access **digital maps** of their local water systems to see which pipeline serves their home.
- View **water supply schedules**, **water quality test results**, and **treatment schedules**.
- **Raise complaints** about service issues—such as low pressure or poor quality—through an online system that tracks grievances until resolution.

This **feedback loop** not only improves service delivery but also fosters **community ownership** of water assets, a cornerstone for sustainability.



Lower Costs, Better Services Through Digital Insights

Digital records and real-time dashboards which will be supported by the RPWSS asset registry and PM Gati platform, can significantly aid **in maintenance and inventory management**. **Predictive analytics** help identify vulnerable assets before breakdowns occur, minimizing downtime and reducing O&M costs.

The availability of **reliable data** empowers officials to make **evidence-based decisions**, improving **resource allocation** and boosting overall **efficiency** in rural water delivery.

The digital transformation under **JJM through RPWSS and PM Gati Shakti integration** is not just about technology—it's about empowering local governments with digital tools and data. **NJJM** is creating opportunities for **skilled employment**, fostering **innovation** in rural service delivery and strengthening **institutional capacity.**

Supported by the **15th Finance Commission's grants**, **standardized training modules** have been rolled out nationwide since 2023 to equip local officials, engineers, and community workers with the skills to manage digital assets effectively.

Conclusion: From Infrastructure to Empowerment

The launch of the **RPWSS module** marks a turning point in India's journey toward **sustainable rural water governance**. By integrating **digital technology**, **community participation**, and **local capacity building**, the **Jal Jeevan Mission** is evolving from an infrastructure project into a **citizen-centered digital ecosystem**.

The mission's new **digital public infrastructure** ensures that rural water systems are not just built—but **sustainably managed**, **transparently monitored**, and **equitably governed**. Through this transformation, **India is not merely delivering water—it is delivering resilience, empowerment, and dignity to every rural household**.

Creating infrastructure is only the first step. The true impact lies in its **sustained operation and maintenance**. Through the **RPWSS module and the applications built upon it as a foundational Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), long-term socio-economic benefits for rural citizens can be realized.** By empowering citizens and local bodies with clear public data and user-friendly digital tools, RPWSS ensures that rural water infrastructure delivers lasting value, improves service delivery, and fosters community ownership through Jan Bhagidari. With the convergence of technology, data, and participatory governance, India is steadily progressing toward the ambitious goal of *"Har Ghar Jal to Sujal Gram"*.

Odisha's Ganjam District is Setting Benchmarks in Rural Water Governance

- **Keerthi Vasan V.,** IAS, Collector-Cum-District Magistrate, Ganjam District-Odisha

Keerthi Vasan V.

From solar-powered solutions in remote villages to community-led operations and digital transparency in Ganjam which shows how every drop counts when people and purpose unite.

Ganjam's success on household pipe water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is an example of innovation blended with discipline. With six Mega Piped Water Supply (PWS) projects covering **1,618 villages and nearly two million people**, the district has redefined rural water governance. Regular supervision by engineers, third-party quality inspections (TPIA), and the use of on-site testing labs and universal-testing-machine (UTM)s have ensured quality, accountability, and durability at every stage.

Figure 8: Reduction from drudgery, a woman beneficiary fetching water from tap | Source: RWSS Odisha

Figure 9: DC-cum-DM Keerthi Vasan chairing DWSM meeting | Source: RWSS Odisha

Fast-track execution through convergence

A hallmark of Ganjam's implementation is efficient inter-departmental coordination. Forest land transfer, road and railway permissions, and dispute resolution all processes that typically delay infrastructure work are fast-tracked through convergence.

The Rushikulya River-based 15 MLD Mega Project, serving 55 villages, was completed seamlessly through this proactive, time-bound and convergence approach.

Ensuring last-mile connectivity using renewable energy

In the remote Masanibada village of Ankuli GP, where 21 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) families reside on the hilltop of a forest. It was a challenge for the district administration and RWSS to ensure household tap connections to these people. As a solution a solar-powered PWS system was introduced. The 5kl capacity OHT ensures **sustainable water supply** in the **remote PVTG area.** This compact and low-maintenance model ensures uninterrupted water supply through renewable energy. Leak detection, repair within 24 hours, and documentation make it both efficient and transparent a scalable solution for remote regions nationwide.

Involvement of community

Formation and training of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) have been central to Ganjam's success. With active participation from women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these committees now lead operations and maintenance (O&M), ensuring sustainability. Capacity-building programs at district, block, and GP levels have transformed users into managers turning *ownership into stewardship.*

VWSC-led water tax collection model is a standout best practice. VWSC members regularly visits door to door and collects water user charges and give proper collection receipts thus establishing transparency in utilization resulting

Figure 10: Solar based PWS in PVTG village | Source: RWSS Odisha

Figure 11: Community meeting | Source: RWSS Odishas

community trust and high compliance

- In **Putiapadar village**, an 88.7% collection rate was achieved, with funds used for energy dues and sanitation.
- **Bhabinipur** reported 67.9% compliance, maintaining complete transparency. Door-to-door collection, receipt issuance, and community-level disclosures have built strong public trust making sustainability a shared responsibility.

Trained **SHG and MBK** members collects and test water samples using FTKs, uploading results to **WQMIS**. Ganjam operates multiple testing laboratories, including one **NABL-accredited lab**, and follows a multi-level verification system to ensure safe drinking water at the household level.

Regular IEC activities have a significant impact on fostering community involvement. In Ganjam, communities are consistently made aware of water tariff collection, educated on minimizing water wastage, and actively engaged through stakeholder campaigns. These efforts promote *Jan Bhagidari* (community participation), which is central to the sustainable use of water resources.

Source Sustainability and Climate Resilience

To safeguard water sources, Ganjam has prioritized source sustainability of PWS schemes. Focus is given to Construction, Recharge and Check. To ensure source sustainability RWSS has integrated **Amrit Sarovar, check dams, and recharge ponds** under convergence with MGNREGA. Construction of **barrages near intake wells** and rejuvenation of traditional ponds are improving groundwater recharge and long-term source reliability. **Har Ghar Jal certification** - HGJ certification initiated when all households, schools, anganwadi centers and public institutions have functional tap connections. Special Gram-Sabha are organise to declare village as HGJ village. Gram-Sabha video & HGJ Certificates uploaded in JJM-IMIS portal.

Grievance Redressal - The **24×7 BASUDHA helpline** exemplifies citizen-first approach. This shows Responsive Governance of ensuring service at every drop. Defined timelines of 48 hours for tube well repairs, 3 days for minor issues, and 7 days for major ones reflect a system driven by commitment and accountability. Through innovation, transparency, and community partnership, Ganjam district has reimagined rural water supply systems. Its blend of solar technology, participatory governance, and local empowerment provides a **blueprint for replicable success** under Jal Jeevan Mission. Ganjam marches towards a sustainable and equitable water future.

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Figure 12: Ensuring Grievance redressal - BASUDHA van | Source: RWSS Odisha

Peyjal Samvad Held on the 14th October, 2025: Empowering Communities, Ensuring Every Drop Counts in East Khasi Hills District

- **Rosetta Mary Kurbah,** IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District-Meghalaya

Rosetta Mary Kurbah

A Framework Built on Accountability and Teamwork

At the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission in East Khasi Hills lies a strong framework for monitoring and implementation. Under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairman, DWSM, the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) have conducted 23 regular review meetings to assess implementation progress, address challenges, and set clear targets for achieving Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). These regular reviews ensure coordination between line departments, field engineers, and VWSCs, making implementation structured and efficient.

Figure 13: Skill Development training | Source: DWSM Eat Khasi Hills

Figure 14: Review meeting of DWSM | Source: DWSM Eat Khasi Hills

Building Capacity, Inspiring Change

The Jal Samvad movement emphasizes the importance of community participation. Through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities such as the importance of conducting Gram Sabha, Water Budgeting Exercises, Water Resource Mapping Exercises, street plays, posters, school programs, SHG participation, awareness about water conservation and hygiene has spread widely. The Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) are being trained in operation and maintenance, financial literacy, and technical know-how. This capacity building ensures that villages can manage their own water supply systems independently, fostering transparency, reliability, and sustainability.

Figure 15: Community awareness drive | Source: DWSM Eat Khasi Hills

Sustainability Through Smart User Charges

To ensure long-term sustainability, VWSCs have introduced a user-based charge system ranging from ₹10 to ₹200 per household per month, depending on local income and system costs. These funds cover essential expenses such as pump operator salaries, electricity bills, repairs, and maintenance. This community-led financial management strengthens ownership and accountability, ensuring a continuous and reliable water supply.

Quality First: Women Lead the Way in Water Testing

Ensuring safe drinking water remains a top priority. In East Khasi Hills, five trained women Field Test Kit (FTK) users regularly monitor water quality. They conduct tests,

record results using mobile apps, and report any irregularities in real time. This approach not only ensures the safety of drinking water but also empowers women as key participants in maintaining public health and water governance.

Figure 16: Ensuring water quality through testing using FTK by women | Source: DWSM Eat Khasi Hills

Digital Innovation Accelerates Har Ghar Jal Certification

Digital monitoring tools such as the JJM IMIS Portal and Field User App have made real-time data management possible. The District Project Management Unit (DPMU) collaborates with VWSCs and field engineers to ensure data accuracy and streamline approvals. This efficient coordination has significantly expedited the Har Ghar Jal certification process, ensuring transparency and timely progress.

Mawtawar: A Model of Convergence and Community Strength

In Mawtawar village, the convergence of JJM and MGNREGA has led to the creation of a multipurpose mini gravity check-dam. This project, implemented through collective community efforts and departmental coordination, now supplies 5,50,000 liters of waterdaily to approximately 2,500 households. Beyond its immediate benefits, the check-dam has become a site for eco-tourism and a recharge source for aquifers through plantation and trenching works supported by the Forest Department and MBDA.

The Road Ahead

The Jal Samvad journey in East Khasi Hills exemplifies how community ownership, digital innovation, and inter-departmental collaboration can achieve sustainable water management. Through continued community empowerment, women's participation, and transparent governance, the district moves closer to realizing the vision of 'Har Ghar Jal' — every home with tap water, every community capable of sustaining it.

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Brief About Mawtawar

Demography

Mawtawar covers an area of about 5012 Sqm. It is situated in Mawlai C&RD Block which bifurcated from the erstwhile Mylliem C&RD Block of East Khasi Hills District. It has 2,541 households with a population of 10,180 people, with the fast-growing population, new emerging households, the village faced challenges which are encountered by any growing population.

The Community's Strategy

Existing options: The village has an existing Water Supply Scheme under PHE Department which has been serving the community.

Exploring alternative options: MGNREGA- giving an annual definite budget, and with Water Conservation & Water Harvesting being a focus area, the village decided to take up the projects through MGNREGA. Four Village Employment Councils (VECs) under the Mawtawar Area Employment Council (AEC) took up the task.

Strategy Planning

1. **Meeting**

   Mawtawar AEC took the lead and met with three VECs Collective responsibility of four VECs- Mawtawar Pdengshnong VEC, Lummawsing VEC, Riattamdong VEC and Laitlum VEC.

2. **Funding**

   The source of funds was identified through MGNREGA. With four VECs working together, maximum person days can be drawn for the overall benefit of the community and the villagers.

3. **Convergence**

   Technical convergence through plan and estimates prepared in collaboration with line departments viz. Water Resources Department, Public Health Engineering Department and Soil and Water Conservation Department.

Implementation Solution

The collective efforts of the four VECs under the AEC along with the constant monitoring and support of all officials made the project a success.

- The project was initiated on 2nd December 2019.
- Hiccups that delayed the implementation is due to COVID-19
- Completed on 22nd October 2020

Sanctioned

A total cost of **₹ 90,57,800/-** was sanctioned fully under MGNREGA

Material Expenditure - **₹45,32,400**

Wage Expenditure - **₹45,12,400**

Person days Generated – **24,200**

Augmentation of Mawtawar WSS - ₹ 21,64,98,282.00 (was sanctioned fully by PHE)

Output

The storage capacity is about 3,925 cubic metre or approx 40 lakh litres. The dam is comprised of 6 Blocks (A, B, C, D, E and F). The spillway is through Block B. The spillway is designed as Ski jump bucket structure to dissipate the velocity from 11.17 m/sec to 2.58 m/sec.

Value addition

Through convergence with JJM under MoJS, a pump house was set-up near the Storage Dam and the project was properly fenced and beautified.

Outcome

Addressed the Water Insufficiency of the Area

- Through JJM, approximately 5,50,000 liters of water is being pumped daily to supply water to households.
- Through this convergence, it can now provide potable drinking water to 2,500 village households.

Added Benefits and Way Forward

- The check-dam became a Source for PHE to implement JJM
- It acts as an Eco- Walk under Tourism
- Further convergence with Forest Department/ MBDA for works on plantation and trenches to recharge the source and retain the water in the aquifers.

Source Sustainability

Initiatives

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the VEC undertook several supplementary activities in and around the catchment area of this water source.

Action

- Plantation of 8,000 saplings in the nearby areas
- Excavation of 1,000 trenches in the catchment area
- Construction of 8 gabion walls for maintenance and safeguarding of the water source.

The Blueprint for Water Security:
A Case Study on the Sustainability of Water Supply Infrastructure in Charaideo District, Assam

- **Dr. Neha Yadav,** IAS, District Commissioner, Charaideo District, Assam

Dr. Neha Yadav

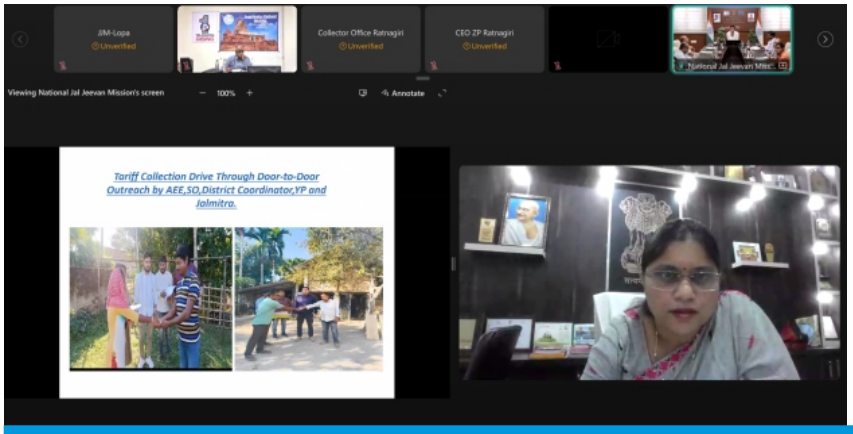

Figure 17: Dr. Neha Yadav, DC, Charaideo sharing their good practices during 1st Peyjal Samvad | Source: NJJM

Introduction

Provision of safe, reliable drinking water is a cornerstone of public health and economic development. The ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched by Honourable Prime Miniter Sri. Narendra Modi in 2019 aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural home, shifting the paradigm from mere infrastructure creation to sustainable service delivery. The sustainability of this infrastructure—particularly the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) phase—is the greatest challenge.

While the country has witnessed various states taking proactive steps towards ensuring building a comprehensive Operation and Maintenance system, Charaideo District in Upper Assam serves as a compelling case study of a model that integrates robust governance, community ownership, and a focus on financial self-reliance to ensure the longevity of its water assets. Charaideo's approach, primarily driven by the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), is transforming its numerous Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) into self-sustaining local utilities, offering a blueprint for water security in rural India.

Figure 18: Dr. Neha Yadav, DC, Charaideo with WUc members and community | Source: DWSM Charaideo

Context and Scale of the Challenge in Charaideo

Charaideo District, established in 2015, is situated in Upper Assam and is characterized by a predominantly rural landscape. With a total population of 471,418 (as per the 2011 Census), the bulk of its residents i.e 93.69% of the population lives in rural areas across its 321 villages and 36 Gram Panchayats. The district's economy is primarily agrarian, with significant production of rice and the ubiquitous tea plantations. This context highlights a critical reality: the population is dispersed, and the traditional reliance on agriculture dictates a unique set of needs for water infrastructure, requiring greater community mobilization.

Under the JJM, the scale of water infrastructure development in Charaideo is substantial. The district has sanctioned **443 PWSS**, with **240 schemes already completed and handed over** for operational use. Achieving sustainability at this scale requires decentralized management and a strong local cadre, which the district has systematically built.

The Pillars of Operational Sustainability: Governance and Decentralized Management

The operational sustainability of the water infrastructure in Charaideo rests on two primary pillars: **Strong Governance** and **Community Ownership**.

1. **Robust Institutional Governance**

   Charaideo has institutionalized a strong inter-departmental coordination mechanism. The District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) and the District Administration maintain continuous involvement and regular coordination with the PHED's Nazira Division. The inter-departmental coordination has made in possible to not just regularly evaluate the progress of the scheme but to implement initiatives and mechanisms directed towards regular operation and maintenance of the water supply schemes built under the Mission. It also created a platform for the administration to monitor and evaluate the progress in this direction. In Charaideo, the regular district reviews and administrative oversight became enablers in this direction.

   - **District-Level Review:** Regular district-level reviews and timely decisions on scheme functionality and tariff matters are routine.

Figure 19: Trained women are testing water quality with FTK | Source: DWSM Charaideo

- **Block-Level Reviews:** The Nazira Division, that oversees the work of the department reviewed each block fortnightly to the lowest level of administration to ensure regarding the issues lodged and the action taken with regards to the issues.

- **Administrative Oversight:** The District Commissioner (DC) and the Additional District Commissioner (ADC) for Jal Jeevan Mission receive regular updates, ensuring that political and administrative willpower is aligned with on-ground execution. This streamlined flow of information and authority results in **quicker repairs and steady tariff collections**.

- **Empowering of Water User Committees:** Charaideo focused on rebuilding the grassroot administration towards better management of O&M. The administration prioritised on handholding, capacity building and wherever necessary reconstitution/reviving of Water User Committees to enable them troubleshoot and systematise regular O&M.

  A case in point is the **Poitakhat PWSS**, where local problem-solving and teamwork have ensured quick restoration of service interruptions. This hands-on engagement nurtures trust between communities and the implementing agencies, turning water supply management into a shared mission rather than a government-led service.

2. **Community Empowerment and Ownership**

   The larger strategy for the district's goal, places the Water User Committees (WUCs) and local functionaries including the Gaon Panchayats (PRIs) at the forefront of the operational ecosystem. The establishment of community-led monitoring and maintenance was made crucial for long-term viability of the O&M of the schemes.

Figure 20: Checking of flow of tap water | Source: DWSM Charaideo

- **The Jal Mitra Network:** The district successfully engaged **240 Jal Mitras**, volunteers not just ensured the functioning of the water supply schemes but more importantly acted as the essential bridge between the community and the WUCs. Their role is increasingly becoming pivotal in reporting faults, collecting tariffs, and driving behaviour change.

- **On-site Field Oversight:** The practice of holding Block/Section-level on-site meetings with WUCs, Jal Mitras, and other personnel (SAs and Khalasis) fosters a culture of "community problem-solving and responsibility-sharing". This direct interaction, including site visits by the ADC (JJM) for **troubleshooting discussions** and **awareness generation**, ensured that the infrastructure remains a community asset, not a government liability. This has led to district-wide outcomes like **faster fault reporting and repair closure**.

- **Water Testing:** The 5-woman water testing groups were mobilised for routine on-site testing, and public demonstration of Water quality testing. This created an environment of confidence towards PWSSs.

Financial Self-Reliance: The Transition from Grant-Dependence to Local Revenue

Financial viability is the ultimate determinant of a water supply scheme's sustainability. A scheme that cannot cover its O&M costs will inevitably fail, regardless of how well

Figure 21: Collection of water tariff | Source: DWSM Charaideo

it is constructed. Charaideo's explicit future plan was to Reduce dependence on 15th Finance Commission grants by boosting own-source O&M revenue, which acted as the most significant indicator of its long-term strategy.

The 15th Finance Commission (FC) has recommended a substantial allocation as a Tied Grant for water and sanitation to rural local bodies (RLBs) for the period 2021-2026. These Tied Grants constitute 60% of the total allocation to the Panchayats and are explicitly meant for water supply, rainwater harvesting, water recycling, and sanitation. Charaideo recognized that moving away from this dependence requires generating revenue locally.

The district has made commendable progress in establishing a **tariff culture**, **with 175 out of the 240 completed PWSS reporting tariff collection**. This shift to a 'pay-and-service reliability' model is crucial for ring-fencing funds for scheme maintenance.

The plans emphasize financial discipline:

- **Ring-fence O&M funds** at the WUC level by ensuring weekly deposit of the tariff collection in the bank accounts to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Incentivise tariff collection:** Tariff Collection was incentivised, with the volunteersreceiving performance top-ups and focused IEC initiatives linking timely payment and reliable service.
- **Introduce digital payments** and scheme-level dashboards with to improve collection efficiency and ease of transaction.

Special Focus on Tea Garden Areas: Equity in Access: Charaideo's commitment to inclusivity extends to its tea garden habitations, where water access was historically limited. Through targeted inspection drives—such as those at Salkathoni Tea Estate PWSS—and dedicated awareness campaigns, the district has improved water safety for workers' quarters.In these areas, women and children have been the primary beneficiaries. Ongoing discussions with tea garden managements aim to institutionalise their involvement in WUCs, ensuring long-term O&M sustainability and equity in service delivery.

Case in Point: The Michajan 5 No. Ward PWSS &Maibella PWSS

Maibella PWSS: A Beacon of Community Ownership

The Maibella PWSS, completed in 2022 at a cost of ₹49.22 lakh, serves 318 households. With an Underground Reservoir (UGR) of 80 KL, an Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of 50 KL, and dual pumping systems (5 HP submersible and 7.5 HP centrifugal), it represents efficient design and robust infrastructure.

The scheme's sustainability is driven by 100% household participation in tariff payment (₹50 per month) that led to total tariff collection of ₹3.10 lakh as on date. The PWSS prioritised prompt minor repairs funded by WUC contributions entrenching the link between water supply from PWSS to reduced water-borne diseases and improved hygiene practices

The scheme also piloted a QR code-based payment system, enhancing convenience and transparency. The visible benefits—reduced drudgery for women, improved school attendance for children, and higher productivity—illustrate how water access transforms lives.

Michajan 5 No. Ward PWSS: A Story of Resilience

Commissioned in July 2024, the Michajan 5 No. Ward PWSS represents the next generation of sustainable rural infrastructure. With an investment of ₹105.69 lakh, the scheme delivers safe water through a 7 km distribution network to 172 households.

The PWSS has witness a increasing graph of households paying tariff regularly. As on date, 106 Households

are regularly paying tariff of ₹50 per household. Tariff collection has exceeded ₹73,500 since commissioning.

The scheme has not only improved water access but also reduced diarrhoeal cases and increased school attendance. More importantly, it has instilled a pay-and-service reliability culture, marking a shift from entitlement to ownership.

Conclusion and The Road Ahead

Charaideo District's water supply strategy is an ongoing model of sustainable infrastructure management, focused on creating local public utilities rather than relying indefinitely on central and state grants. The district's proactive approach—combining structured governance, community empowerment through Jal Mitras and WUCs, and a clear path to financial self-sufficiency—is strengthening **tariff culture**, increased **user satisfaction**, and **better data visibility** for targeted interventions. By prioritizing local revenue generation over reliance on government grants and institutionalizing a community-led O&M framework, Charaideo District aims to build a resilient and sustainable water supply infrastructure.

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Figure 22: WUC meeting with community
Source: DWSM Charaideo

Empowering Rural Women Through Water Security The Jal Jeevan Mission Success Story in Nivoshi Village, Ratnagiri

- **Manuj Jindal,** IAS, Distric Collector, Ratnagiri and **Vaidehi Ranade,** IAS, CEO Zilla Parishad, Ratnagiri District-Maharashtra

Manuj Jindal

Vaidehi Ranade

Village profile

The village Nivoshi is situated in block Lanja of Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra, the village has emerged as a model of rural transformation. It is a small village with 89 families and 402 population. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture.

Through the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a national initiative aimed at providing safe and adequate drinking water to every household, Nivoshi has not only achieved water security but also empowered its women to lead the charge in community development.

Project Overview

The retrofitting scheme for Nivoshi was launched under the Jal Jeevan Mission with the goal of ensuring tap water access to all 101 households. Sanctioned in October 2021, the project was completed in May 2022.

Figure 23: Har Ghar Jal Declaration | Source: DWSM Ratnagiri

Har Ghar Jal Declaration

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2023, Nivoshi was proudly declared a "Har Ghar Jal" village. This milestone was officially certified on July 24, 2023. The scheme was handed over to Kranti Utpadak Self Help Group on 8th March 2023 symbolizing the successful implementation of the scheme and the empowerment of women in managing water supply scheme in the village.

Community Engagement and SHG Involvement

What truly distinguishes Nivoshi's success is the active involvement of its women-led Self-Help Group (SHG), Kranti Utpadak. Following joint meetings with WATSAN, RWS, MSRLM, and the Block Development Officer and Gram panchayat, the SHG was trained and entrusted with the operation and maintenance of the water supply scheme.

Their willingness to take on this responsibility marked a turning point in the village's development journey

Operational Excellence

The Kranti Utpadak SHG has demonstrated remarkable efficiency in managing the scheme. They collect monthly water tax at the rate of ₹120 per household, conduct regular

Figure 24: Woman leader Smt. Vaidehi Ranade, IAS with grassroot women leaders | Source: DWSM Ratnagiri

meetings to decide on recovery methods, and conduct maintenance and repairs. Their efforts have resulted in 100% tax recovery, prompting the Gram Panchayat to award them a 2% incentive.

Technical and Sanitary Oversight

Beyond financial management, the SHG members have taken on technical roles. They conduct sanitary surveys, perform water quality testing and carry out minor repairs. This hands-on involvement has fostered a strong sense of ownership and responsibility among the women ensuring the sustainability of the scheme.

Social Impact and Empowerment

The initiative has significantly elevated the social status and dignity of women in Nivoshi. Their leadership has inspired other women in the village to participate in community affairs, breaking traditional barriers and promoting gender equality. The SHG's success has also motivated the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and other SHGs to become more actively involved.

Way ahead

Looking ahead, the Jal Jeevan Mission plans to provide skill development training to SHG members in plumbing, electrical work, and pump operation. These trainings will not only enhance the technical sustainability of the water scheme but also open new avenues for economic empowerment.

Conclusion

The story of Nivoshi is a testament to the transformative power of community-driven development. Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, the village has achieved universal water access while empowering its women to lead with confidence and competence. Nivoshi stands as a shining example of how infrastructure and social empowerment can go hand in hand to build resilient and inclusive rural communities.

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Figure 25: Smt. Vaidehi Ranade, IAS during inspection visit-a skilled women in action | Source: DWSM Ratnagiri

Figure 26: A trained FTK trainer explaining water quality to community | Source: DWSM Ratnagiri

Innovating for Every Drop, North Tripura's Journey toward Har Ghar Jal

- **Chandni Chandran,** IAS, District Magistrate & Collector, North Tripura, District-Tripura

Chandni Chandran

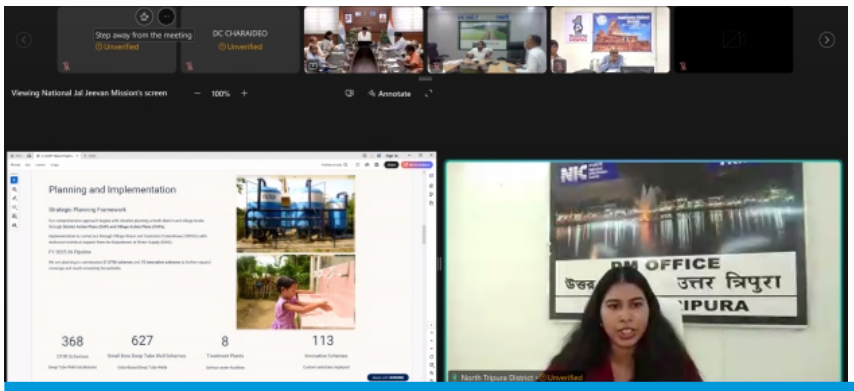

Figure 27: Smt. Chandni Chandran, DM&Collector, Northe Tripura sharing experiences during 1st Payjal Samvad | Source: DWSM North Tripura

Amid the green hills and resilient communities of Tripura, North Tripura district has become an inspiration of innovation and community participation under Jal Jeevan Mission. With an impressive 85.55% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage, bringing safe drinking water to more than 71,000 rural households the district's progress reflects a powerful combination of strategic planning, local empowerment, and social inclusion.

Strategic Planning for Universal Access

North Tripura's success story is rooted in meticulous planning through District and Village Action Plans (DAPs & VAPs). These plans are not just technical blueprints but collaborative documents reflecting the voices of local communities. Implementation through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) ensures that every habitation participates in managing its own water future. The district has also lined up 21 new Deep Tube Well (DTW) schemes and 70 innovative schemes for FY 2025–26 to achieve full coverage and ensure functional sustainability.

Figure 28: Awareness drive through village walk | Source: DWSM North Tripura

Innovation at the Core

From **solar-powered innovative projects** for remote hamlets to 100% **geo-tagging of assets** for real-time transparency, innovation drives the district's approach. **Community WhatsApp groups** have turned into dynamic monitoring platforms, while **SHG women trained in field test kits** now conduct water quality testing at

Figure 29: Smt. Chandni Chandran, DM&Collector, Northe Tripura with NWEs | Source: DWSM North Tripura

the grassroots. These women, once beneficiaries, are now local custodians of safe drinking water symbolizing Jal Jeevan Mission's transformative power.

Empowering the Most Vulnerable: Focus on PVTGs

For North Tripura, inclusion is not an afterthought—it is central to its mission. The district has connected **82.5% of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) households**, ensuring reliable water access for over **15,500 families** who live in remote, often forested areas.

In areas like **Kanchanpur and Damcherra**, PVTG women who once walked miles through hilly terrain to fetch water now have taps within their homes. "***We can now spend time weaving and sending our children to school instead of fetching water***," says a tribal woman from Anandabazar, capturing how a simple tap can transform lives, especially for women and girls.

Building Awareness through Jan Bhagidari

North Tripura led all northeastern and hill states in the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari campaign**, proving that people's participation is key to sustainability. From **street plays and wall art** to **school competitions and workshops**, the district's creative IEC efforts have made water everyone's business. The forthcoming **"Uttar Jal Sanchay Yatra"** will further spread the message of water conservation through construction of 50,000 plus soakpits.

Securing the Source, Sustaining the Future

Beyond infrastructure, North Tripura has focused on the very heart of water security — the source. A **District Water Conservation Plan** and **Village Water Security Plans** have been prepared for **179 recharge structures**, ensuring that every scheme has a dependable, replenished source.

Through convergence with **MGNREGA, SBM, Fifteenth Finance Commission funds, and JICA**, over **11,000 recharge structures** including **check dams, soak pits, percolation tanks**, and **rainwater harvesting systems** have been created in 2024 - 2025.

In the **Jampui Hills**, a partnership with **Tata Trusts** on **spring-shed development** is reviving natural aquifers and restoring ecological balance in sensitive zones. This initiative, driven by community stewardship, ensures that the water flowing from these springs today will continue to nourish generations to come. This project is being extended to Dasda and Damcherra blocks too.

Monitoring, Accountability, and Transparency

A robust **monitoring mechanism** reinforces this progress. Monthly review meetings, **IMIS portal tracking**, and citizen-driven grievance systems like **Amar Sarkar village walks** ensure two-way accountability. These platforms allow villagers to voice concerns, share solutions, and sustain the momentum of Har Ghar Jal long after scheme completion.

Towards "Har Din Jal"

North Tripura's journey is more than a story of tap connections it is about empowerment, dignity, and environmental stewardship. By integrating innovation with inclusion, and planning with participation, the district is redefining how rural water systems can be both equitable and enduring.

With the goal of achieving **100% FHTC by March 2027**, North Tripura marches ahead turning the vision of *"Har Ghar Jal"* into the lived reality of *"Har Din Jal."*

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धमतरी: नवाचार और जनभागीदारी से साकार हुआ हर घर जल का सपना

- **अबिनाश मिश्रा,** IAS, धमतरी ज़िला कलेक्टर, छत्तीसगढ़

अबिनाश मिश्रा

14 अक्टूबर 2025 को जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा आयोजित "जिला कलेक्टर पेयजल संवाद"" कार्यक्रम में देशभर से चयनित छह जिलों — पूर्व खासी हिल्स (मेघालय), गंजाम (ओडिशा), रत्नागिरी (महाराष्ट्र), चराइदेव (असम), धमतरी (छत्तीसगढ़) और उत्तर त्रिपुरा (त्रिपुरा) को शामिल किया गया। इस मंच पर धमतरी जिले के नवाचारों और उत्कृष्ट कार्यों को विशेष रूप से सराहा गया। यह सम्मान केवल जिले की उपलब्धियों का नहीं, बल्कि हर उस ग्रामीण परिवार का है जिसने जल जीवन मिशन को जन आंदोलन के रूप में अपनाया।

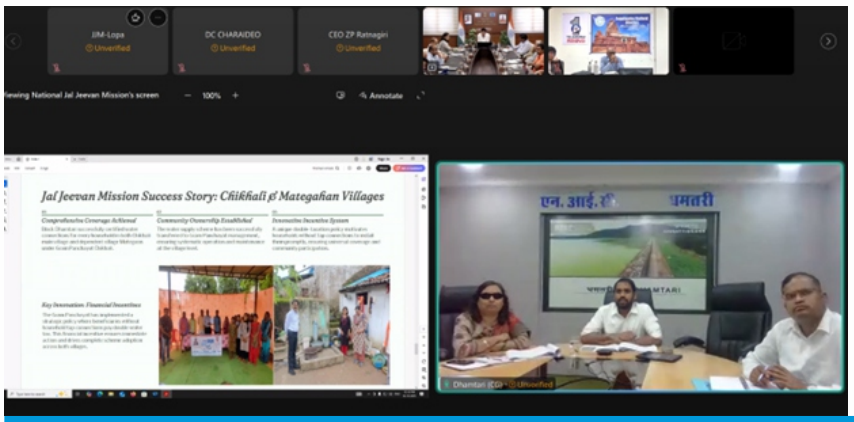

Figure 30: श्री अबिनाश मिश्रा, धमतरी जिला कलेक्टर 1st पेयजल संवाद में अपना अनुभव साँझा करते हुए | Source: NJJM

हर घर तक नल से जल: योजना से हकीकत तक

धमतरी जिले में कुल 1,54,784 ग्रामीण परिवार हैं। 15 अगस्त 2019 तक इनमें से केवल 10 प्रतिशत घरों में ही नल कनेक्शन थे। आज, जल जीवन मिशन की बदौलत 99 प्रतिशत घरों तक सुरक्षित पेयजल आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा चुकी है। यह उपलब्धि योजनाबद्ध कार्यान्वयन, निरंतर निगरानी और ग्राम स्तर पर सक्रिय भागीदारी का परिणाम है।

सुनियोजित जल प्रदाय व्यवस्था

जिले की सभी योजनाएँ ग्राम पंचायतों द्वारा संचालित की जा रही हैं। पंप ऑपरेटरों द्वारा निर्धारित समयानुसार प्रतिदिन दो बार जल आपूर्ति सुबह 6 से 8 बजे और शाम 5 से 6 बजे की जाती है। जल वाहिनों द्वारा नियमित फील्ड टेस्ट किट (FTK) परीक्षण से जल की गुणवत्ता पर निगरानी रखी जाती है। इससे ग्रामीणों को शुद्ध और पर्याप्त जल प्राप्त हो रहा है।

Figure 31-34: कौशल विकास प्रशिक्षण | स्रोत: पीएचईडी छत्तीसगढ़

Figure 35: जल गुणवत्ता परीक्षण प्रशिक्षण | स्रोत: पीएचईडी छत्तीसगढ़

डिजिटल पारदर्शिता और वित्तीय अनुशासन

धमतरी जिले ने जलकर संग्रहण की डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणाली लागू की है, जिससे पारदर्शिता बढ़ी है। प्रति घर ₹50 से ₹100 मासिक जलकर से जो राशि एकत्र होती है, उसे ग्राम जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति (VWSC) के अनुमोदन पश्चात निम्न उपयोगों में लाया जाता है -

1. जलकर की राशि से पंप ऑपरेटर/जल मित्र को मासिक मानदेय दिया जाता है।
2. क्लोरिनेशन के लिए नमक खरीदने का कार्य किया जाता है।
3. सबमर्सिबल पंप रिपेयरिंग का कार्य किया जाता है।
4. पाइपलाइन लीकेज सुधारने का कार्य किया जा रहा है

इस मॉडल ने गांवों में वित्तीय आत्मनिर्भरता और जवाबदेही को मजबूत किया है।

सौर ऊर्जा से सशक्त गांव

जिन 80 गांवों में विद्युत आपूर्ति नियमित नहीं है, वहां सौर ऊर्जा आधारित जल योजनाएँ लागू की गई हैं। नगरी विकासखंड के केकराडोंगरी ग्राम में यह योजना आदर्श रूप से संचालित है, जहाँ 24 घंटे पेयजल की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की गई है। यह पहल दूरस्थ और वनांचल क्षेत्रों के लिए जीवनदायिनी सिद्ध हो रही है।

जन अनुशासन और स्वशासन

ग्राम पंचायतें जल जीवन मिशन के क्रियान्वयन में सक्रिय भूमिका निभा रही हैं। ग्राम चिखली में पंचायत द्वारा यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि यदि कोई व्यक्ति जल प्रदाय में गड़बड़ी करता है तो उससे दोगुना जलकर वसूला जाता है। इससे सामुदायिक अनुशासन और प्रणाली की स्थिरता बनी रहती है।

ग्राम चिखली ब्लॉक एवं जिला धमतरी का उदाहरण देते हुए बताया कि जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत तैयार की गई योजना का संचालन संधारण ग्राम पंचायत द्वारा आदर्श तरीके से किया जा रहा है । इस जलप्रदाय योजना में ग्रामीणों द्वारा किसी भी प्रकार की गड़बड़ी की जाती है तो ग्राम पंचायत उनसे दंड स्वरूप जलकर की दोगुना राशि वसूल करती है ताकि व्यवस्था सुचारू रूप से संचालित हो सके।

इसी प्रकार धमतरी जिला के नगरी विकासखंड के वनांचल ग्राम केकराडोंगरी में सोलर योजना को भी आदर्श तरीके संचालित किया जा रहा है जहां ग्रामीणों को 24 घंटे पेयजल प्रदाय हो रहा है।

वैसे ग्राम जहां विद्युत व्यवस्था दुरुस्त नहीं है ऐसे 80 ग्रामों में सोलर योजना संचालित की गई है इससे दूरस्थ अंचलों की आदिवासी जनता को पेयजल सुचारु रूप से प्राप्त हो रही है।

जलमित्रों का सशक्तिकरण

कलेक्टर द्वारा पंप ऑपरेटरों और जलमित्रों को बैंक लोन सुविधा से छोटे व्यवसाय (जैसे प्लंबिंग, सिंचाई उपकरण मरम्मत आदि) शुरू करने हेतु प्रेरित किया गया है। इससे वे स्वावलंबी बन रहे हैं और गांवों में सेवा सुविधा भी बेहतर हो रही है।

धमतरी जिले की यह सफलता इस तथ्य को प्रमाणित करती है कि जब शासन की योजनाएँ जनभागीदारी, तकनीकी नवाचार और स्थानीय स्वामित्व पर आधारित हों, तब "हर घर जल" केवल एक लक्ष्य नहीं, बल्कि जीवन सुधार की क्रांति बन जाता है।

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Figure 36: सौर ऊर्जा आधारित जल योजना | स्रोत: पीएचईडी छत्तीसगढ़

Hamirpur: A Model of Rural Water Revolution through People's Participation

- **Amarjeet Singh**, IAS, Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman DWSM, Hamirpur District-Himachal Pradesh

Amarjeet Singh

Jal Jeevan Mission: A Rural Life Revolution

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is an Indian Government initiative launched in 2019 to provide a functional household tap water connection to every rural household. The mission aims to improve public health, reduce the burden on rural women by eliminating the need to fetch water, and ensure long-term water security through community participation.

As on September 2025, over 1,12,658 rural households have been provided with tap water connections in District Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh but challenges remain including ensuring the functionality of the systems and bridging the usage gap in certain villages.

Universal Access: From Vision to Reality

Established in 1972, Hamirpur district covers 1,118 sq. km and comprises 6 blocks, 248 Gram Panchayats, 1,675 villages and 2,687 habitations.

As of 30 September 2025, all 1,12,658 rural households have access to tap water. Every 920 schools and 1,304 Anganwadi centres have also been equipped with FHTCs, ensuring safe drinking water for children and the community alike.

This success reflects the district's unwavering commitment to achieving universal, equitable, and sustainable access to clean water.

Strategic Planning and Implementation

Under the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM), comprehensive District and Village Action Plans were prepared for all 248 Panchayats, integrating source sustainability, O&M mechanisms, and community ownership.

Implementation is community-led through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), supported technically by the Jal Shakti Vibhag (JSV). Out of 66 Lift Water Supply Schemes (LWSS) sanctioned under

Goals and Objectives

Universal access:	To provide a functional household tap connection to every rural household.
Improve health:	To reduce waterborne diseases through access to safe, potable water.
Women's empowerment:	To relieve rural women from the drudgery and time spent collecting water.
Community participation:	To involve local communities, particularly women, in planning, implementing and managing water supply systems.
Long-term sustainability:	To ensure long-term drinking water security through community-based approach and the conservation of water resources.

Figure 37: DWSM, Issuance of Protocols for Handing over | Source: DWSM Hamirpur

JJM with a total cost of ₹41,554.72 lakh, 23 have been completed, while 43 are ongoing, requiring ₹9,712.62 lakh to complete.

Monitoring Mechanism ensures Transparency and Accountability

A robust multi-tier monitoring framework ensures functionality and transparency:

- Quarterly review meetings chaired by the District Collector and Executive Engineer (JSV).
- IMIS portal for real-time data entry and functionality tracking.
- Grievance redressal mechanisms through CM Sankalp Portal, CPGram, e-Grievance systems, complaint registers, and mobile feedback and field visits by JSV officers/official
- Independent functionality surveys conducted quarterly to assess service reliability, water quality, and equity.

This data-driven approach guarantees transparency and strengthens accountability at every level.

Community Ownership and Empowerment

Out of 248 Gram Panchayats, 120 have already taken over in-village water infrastructure, ensuring decentralised management and local accountability. The remaining Panchayats are being motivated through awareness and training programmes.

This transition towards "**community-managed water systems"** promotes long-term sustainability and self-reliance.

Intensive IEC and Behavioural Change

Intensive information, education and communication has been at the heart of Hamirpur's strategy.

- **Jan Bhagidari campaigns** held across Panchayats to promote community ownership and water quality awareness.
- **School & Anganwadi IEC** activities conducted in coordination with the Education Department and BRC's posted in all blocks of the District.

Figure 38-43: Various IEC activities with allied stakeholders | Source: DWSM Hamirpur

- **Mass IEC tools** used: wall paintings, posters, folk songs, and street plays highlighting Har Ghar Jal objectives and quality/quantity of drinking water in all Blocks of the District.
- Jal Utsav and Swachhata Pakhwada observed to enhance behaviour change communication.

Best Practices in Real Time

Real-time monitoring of PWS schemes via **mobile reporting by Junior Engineers, other JSV officers, VWSCs and PRI's through field visits by JSV officers/official.**

Source Sustenance and conservation

To ensure long-term water security, **Village Water Security Plans (VWSPs)** have been prepared for all Gram Panchayats. Structures such as dams, check dams, and dykes are being constructed across various schemes to recharge and sustain water sources. Future plans aim to scale up these initiatives to guarantee perennial water availability.

Engagement of SHGs / PACS - Women at the Forefront

Village Water Security Plans (VWSPs) prepared for all 248 Nos GPs. All the GP's of this District were encouraged for water charges collection and take over the O&M of in Village Infrastructure of PWS. 2 Nos. PRI representatives from each Panchayat of this District have been trained for Water Quality Testing and in addition to this 5 Nos.

The mission has become a symbol of women-led change in Hamirpur. Women from each Village of the District have been trained for Water Quality Testing through FTK. All the Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools (95Nos.) and Govt. High Schools (66Nos.) of the District have been trained for Water Quality Testing through FTK. 120 Nos. Jal Nal Mitars of the District Were trained for Water Quality Testing through FTK by BRC's of JSV and for O&M of in Village Infrastructure of PWS these 120 Nos. Jal Nal Mitar were trained through various ITI's of the District and in future it is planned to trained 128 Nos Jal Nal Mitar.

Innovations Worth Replicating

Hamirpur's innovative approaches offer replicable models for other districts:

- Community WhatsApp Monitoring System: Enables real-time functionality updates from PRIs, VWSCs, and JSV officials.

Figure 44-46: Various water conservation methods for source sustenance | Source: DWSM Hamirpur

Figure 47-52: Capacity building and skilling actions in the district | Source: DWSM Hamirpur

- Mobile-based field reporting: Ensures daily monitoring and quick response.
- Digital data entry and dashboards: Enhance transparency and real-time decision-making.
- Community-led O&M system: Strengthens local accountability and ownership.

These low-cost, high-impact practices exemplify innovation rooted in simplicity and inclusivity.

A Sustainable Water-Secure Future

Hamirpur's journey under Jal Jeevan Mission stands as a powerful example of what visionary leadership, participatory governance, and structured planning can achieve.

The district administration expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Ministry of Jal Shakti for their guidance and continued support.

As Hamirpur celebrates the milestone of Har Ghar Jal, it looks ahead to a future that ensures water security, sustainability, and dignity for every rural household, truly making the Jal Jeevan Mission a Rural Life Revolution.

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From Tankers to Tap Water: Baramulla's Journey of Renewal under Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Minga Sherpa,** IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla

Minga Sherpa

Baramulla: A Beacon of Transformation in the Himalayas

Nestled in the northwestern reaches of Jammu & Kashmir, Baramulla is the largest district in the Kashmir Valley, home to over 10 lakh residents 82% of whom reside in rural areas. Once synonymous with water scarcity and tanker-fed villages, Baramulla has undergone a remarkable transformation under the Jal Jeevan Mission. From the snow-capped Pir Panjal ranges to the banks of the Jhelum, the district has redefined its water narrative through innovation, community participation, and a deep commitment to sustainability. Today, Baramulla stands as a model of resilience and renewal, and has proudly represented Jammu & Kashmir at the national stage of Peyjal Samvad 2025.

Baramulla – From Tankers to Tap Water

Representing Jammu & Kashmir at Peyjal Samvad 2025, District Baramulla showcased how innovation and people's participation can achieve true water security. Facing an all-India shortage of DI pipes and skilled RCC labour, the district pioneered FRP Overhead Tanks and HDPE pipelines, ensuring timely, economical execution.

With more than 15 lakh trees planted, hundreds of spring rejuvenation and recharge works, and a decisive shift to surface-water-based schemes, Baramulla placed sustainability at the core of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Eight ISAs mobilised women, youth, and Pani Samitis as 'Water Warriors,' turning every village into a partner in change.

From 'dry to wet' the Symbol of Renewal

From the parched lanes of Parihaspora and Matipora—once dubbed the 'Rajasthan of Kashmir'—to thousands of homes now enjoying pressurised, filtered tap water, Baramulla's journey reflects the true essence of Peyjal Samvad 2025: transforming challenges into innovation, and scarcity into sustainability.

Baramulla, the largest district in Kashmir with over 10 lakh residents—82% of whom live in rural areas—has emerged as a model of transformation under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Once known for tanker-fed villages and parched summers, the district today stands as

Figure 53: When water flows life grows | Source: DWSM Baramulla

Figure 54: Hope glowing when Pipelines laying | Source: DWSM Baramulla

Jammu & Kashmir's water-secure success story, proudly representing the Union Territory in the 2nd Peyjal Samvad 2025.

The theme of Peyjal Samvad-sharing experiences, challenges, and innovations for sustainable water security-perfectly mirrors Baramulla's journey from scarcity to sustainability, from dependence to dignity.

When JJM was rolled out across the country, shortage of Ductile Iron (DI) pipes became a serious challenge due to limited manufacturers in India. Simultaneously, non-availability of skilled labour for RCC OHT construction—since most labourers preferred working in nearby states where large-scale works were ongoing—posed another bottleneck.

Baramulla turned adversity into innovation. The district became the first in J&K to shift to FRP Overhead Tanks and HDPE pipelines, ensuring timely execution without compromising quality. Retired Chief Engineers were appointed as consultants to vet designs for source sustainability, while Third-Party Inspections (WAPCOS) and a District Monitoring Committee ensured quality assurance at every stage.

To streamline processes, a District Project Management Unit (DPMU) was established within the DC Office, and an In-house Design Cell created a bank of economical, standardized designs-saving both time and public funds.

Eight Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) conducted extensive awareness drives in all 518 villages—through puppet shows, street plays, school rallies, and Gram Sabhas. Women, youth, and Pani Samiti members were trained and motivated to act as Water Warriors—agents of change and guardians of their village water assets.

Over 6,388 water conservation structures, 2,772 watershed works, and 481 recharge interventions were executed. More than 15 lakh trees were planted in the upper catchments to stabilize sources and improve recharge. Springs were protected, traditional water bodies revived, and strict action taken against illegal sand extraction. The district also shifted focus to surface water-based schemes to protect the groundwater table and ensure long-term sustainability.

The ₹60 crore Parihaspora Multi-Village Water Supply Scheme covering 35 villages and 75,000 people—draws water from the Sindh Nallah in Ganderbal District through a 2 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant. While final commissioning is expected soon, treated water is already being supplied to meet essential needs and sanitation requirements, easing the suffering of residents.

Once known as the 'Rajasthan of Kashmir' for its water scarcity, Parihaspora now symbolizes resilience and renewal. “For the first time since Independence, we have a water scheme not a tanker. Our children now study under running taps, not empty buckets,” said a teacher from Matipora village.

In villages like Bonichakal, Goom Ahmadpora, and Budibug once surviving on tanker supplies once every 5–6 days over 2,500 households now enjoy pressurized, filtered tap water. “We used to wait for the sound of the tanker horn like a festival. Now clean water flows right into our homes every day, every hour,” recalls an elderly villager from Bonichakal.

Baramulla's roadmap reflects the essence of Peyjal Samvad 2025, sustainability through innovation and community empowerment: 100% schools and Anganwadi Centres connected, nearly 90% FHTCs covered, and more than 60% geotagging of sources completed. Baramulla's experience reaffirms that sustainable water management is not just engineering it's empowerment. By combining innovation,

Figure 55-58: Source sustainability initiatives | Source: DWSM Baramulla

environmental responsibility, and people's participation, the district has written a story worthy of national replication one that embodies the very spirit of Peyjal Samvad 2025: from challenges to change, and from tankers to tap water.

A Blueprint for Bharat's Water Future

Baramulla's transformation is more than a district success story it is a living blueprint for water-secure rural India. By embracing innovation, empowering communities, and prioritizing sustainability, the district has shown that even the most water-stressed regions can script a new chapter of dignity and development. As the Jal Jeevan Mission moves forward, Baramulla's journey from tankers to tap water stands as a testament to what is possible when governance, grassroots participation, and environmental stewardship come together. It is not just a model for Jammu & Kashmir but a message of hope and possibility for the entire nation.

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Figure 59: Flowing from tap not only water but life too | Source: DWSM Baramulla

From Forested Hills to Flowing Taps – A Model of Sustainable Water Governance

- **Shalini Duhan,** (IAS Gujarat-2016), Collector & District Magistrate – Dang, State Gujarat

Ms. Shalini Duhan

Nestled in the lush green expanse of Gujarat's Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, **Dang** is the state's least populous district, with a population of 2.77 lakh spread across 311 villages and 3 talukas—Ahwa, Subir, and Waghai. Despite its challenging hilly terrain and dense forests, Dang has emerged as a beacon of transformation under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), achieving 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and setting benchmarks in sustainable operations and community-led governance.

A Mission Rooted in Inclusion and Innovation

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Nal Se Jal Program) implemented by the Government of India from 15th August 2019 the objective of this mission is to provide drinking water from tap to every household in all villages of all states of the country. Government of India Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation Jal Jeevan Mission presented an overview of the work done in the district on 30 October 2025 as part of the work done under the Jal Jeevan Mission program. The Collector Shri Dang gave a presentation on the theme of Sustainable O&M and Effective Governance.

Figure 60-61: Water quality testing awareness campaign in schools | Source: DWSM Dang

Figure 62: Meeting of DWSM | Source: DWSM Dang

As part of this, drinking water schemes based on ground source such as ground wells and bore surface source check dams have been constructed to provide drinking water to the people living in Dang district, a paradise-like hilly area of Gujarat.As per the guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission, a survey of villages has been conducted to ensure that 100% of the households in the district have access to drinking water through tap connection.And the Water Supply, Wasmo and Mechanical Department launched a campaign to prepare plans for the villages remaining without tap connections. Thus, Dang district has achieved the feat of becoming a district with 100% tap connection facilities.

- The work done under the Jal Jeevan Mission is being regularly monitored by the Honorable Chairman of the DWSM Committee Review of ongoing Schemes and progress, issue related to village level water supply, O&M activity by PACS and SHGs, Water Tax Collection, water quality testing and progress reports from FTKs.
- To ensure regular maintenance and repair of the drinking water scheme, workshops should be organized for the chairpersons/members/SHGs/PACS members and village leaders at different levels and training should be given to them regarding the management of the scheme and awareness should be created.
- To ensure regular testing of water quality, a team of 5 members is formed and trained for water testing using field test kits. Committee members can independentaly test village drinking water.To create awareness about water quality, drinking water samples are taken from children of various schools/Anganwadi and tested using field test kits, and an overview is provided.
- To achieve effective management of village-level water supply scheme, GPs shall be financially self-reliant (steady source of revenue). To address this, WASMO has initiated efforts to enhance water tax collection.The Gujarat government has implemented a Water Tax Collection Incentive Scheme.This scheme is planned for 2 years (2025-26, 2026-27).The Beneficiaries are GP/ VWSC, PACS/SHGs and VCEs.

Figure 63-67: Capacity building and IEC - Pani Samiti, PACs and SHGs | Source: DWSM Dang

Sustainable O&M: A Community-Driven Model

Under the leadership of the District Collector, Dang focused on **Sustainable Operation & Maintenance (O&M)** through a multi-tiered governance model:

- **Regular DWSM reviews** addressed scheme progress, O&M by PACS and SHGs, water tax collection, and water quality testing.
- **Pani Samiti meetings**, chaired by the Collector, were held every 15 days during summer to ensure responsiveness.
- **Training and capacity building** were prioritized, with over **193 PACS/SHG members** trained and

Figure 68: Community awareness on O&M at water supply asset site | Source: DWSM Dang

311 village water operators certified through ITI-based courses.

Water Quality: Awareness and Accountability

Dang ensured universal water quality testing through:

- Field Test Kits (FTKs) distributed and used by trained women and committee members.
- School-based awareness campaigns, where children tested water samples, fostering early awareness.
- A NABL-accredited district lab and real-time monitoring via the WQMIS dashboard ensured scientific oversight.

Financial Sustainability through Incentives

Recognizing that financial viability is key to long-term success, Dang implemented innovative schemes:

- The Water Tax Collection Incentive Scheme (2025–27) rewarded GPs, PACS, SHGs, and VCEs for achieving collection targets. Villages collecting 100% tax received up to ₹1.5 lakh in incentives.
- This led to a sixfold increase in collections from ₹2.09 lakh to ₹13.07 lakh in one year across 57 villages.

Empowering Women: Mahila Pani Samiti Protsahan Yojana

Dang championed gender-inclusive governance through the Mukhyamantri Mahila Pani Samiti Protsahan Yojana, promoting women-led water committees. Key achievements include:

- **21 Women Pani Samitis** with over 70% female membership.
- **₹50,000 performance-based rewards** for outstanding management.
- **597 women trained** through workshops and **174 women** participated in exposure visits.

Case in Point: Malegam Village

The story of **Malegam village (Ta. Ahwa)** exemplifies Dang's success. With 330 households, the village achieved 100% tap water coverage, regular chlorinated supply, and full tax recovery. Managed by a **women-led Pani Samiti**, the scheme has no pending grievances and is monitored daily earning recognition under the Mahila Pani Samiti Puraskar Yojana.

A Replicable Model for Rural India

Dang's journey from a remote, forested district to a JJM success story is a testament to the power of community participation, innovation, and effective governance. Through strategic planning, capacity building, and inclusive practices, Dang has not only achieved water security but also laid the foundation for sustainable, community-owned water systems. Its model offers valuable lessons for other districts striving to ensure Har Ghar Jal every home with tap water.

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Figure 69: A JJM beneficiary with her tap | Source: DWSM Dang

जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत बोकारो की उपलब्धियाँ और नवाचार

- **अजय नाथ झा,** उपायुक्त, बोकारो, झारखंड

श्री अजय नाथ झा

Figure 70: हैसाबातू ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना (WTP कैंपस) | स्रोत : पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड

14 बोकारो जिले में 3,16,589 Household को आच्छादित किया जाना है, जिसमें अब तक कुल 1,58,443 Household को आच्छादित किया जा चुका है, जो कुल Household का 50.05% है। शेष Household को आच्छादित करने का कार्य प्रगति पर है तथा सभी का कार्यादेश निर्गत है। बोकारो जिले में 244 पंचायतें हैं, जिनमें से 29 पंचायतों को आच्छादित किया जा चुका है। गांवों की संख्या 691 है, जिनमें से 75 गांवों को हर घर जल प्रमाणन प्राप्त हो चुका है।

Figure 71: हैसाबातू ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना (WTP कैंपस) | स्रोत : पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखंड

बोकारो जिले में अधिकांश योजनाएँ नदी और डैम आधारित बहु-ग्राम जलापूर्ति योजनाएँ हैं। वर्तमान में 24 रनिंग MVS योजनाओं से जलापूर्ति की जा रही है, जिन पर जल उपभोग की वसूली 3.41 करोड़ रुपये की गई है। जल उपभोग की वसूली VWSC की जलसखियों के माध्यम से की जाती है। जलसखियों को प्रति माह ₹2000 मानदेय के अतिरिक्त, प्रति माह की गई जल वसूली का 10% या अधिकतम ₹5000 प्रति माह प्रोत्साहन राशि के रूप में दी जाती है।

24 vnn lapkfyr MVS योजनाओं में से एक योजना **हैसाबातू मल्टी विलेज वाटर सप्लाई स्कीम** है, जिसमें अब तक ₹1.72 करोड़ रुपये की जल वसूली की गई है, जो राज्य में सर्वाधिक है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत 9 MLD का वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट बना हुआ है, जिसमें xjxk नदी से पानी को अंडर ग्रैविटी लिया जाता है। इस योजना के तहत कुल 4 रनिंग पाइपलाइनों के माध्यम से कुल 12,526 घरों में शुद्ध पेयजल आपूर्ति की जा रही है। इस योजना से 10 गांवों को आच्छादित किया गया है, जिनमें से 8 गांव हर घर जल प्रमाणित हो चुके हैं। यह बहु-ग्राम जलापूर्ति योजना सितम्बर 2021 से संचालित की जा रही है।

इसके पूर्व ग्रामीणों को हैंडपंप के माध्यम से पानी लेना पड़ता था। ग्राम की महिलाओं का कहना है कि पहले का पानी अच्छा नहीं होता था और कीचड़ युक्त होता था। जलापूर्ति नियमित होने के बाद महिलाओं में काफी प्रसन्नता है कि अब पानी बहुत अच्छा, साफ है और कीचड़ रहित है तथा नल से पानी मिल रहा है। इसके साथ स्वास्थ्य में भी काफी सुधार हुआ है। पहले लोगों को पानी से संबंधित अनेक बीमारियों का सामना करना पड़ता था, किन्तु नियमित जलापूर्ति से स्वास्थ्य में सुधार हुआ है।

इन सभी कारणों से विभाग द्वारा निर्धारित जल वसूली की ₹62 प्रति सप्ताह की दर के स्थान पर ₹75 प्रति सप्ताह देने हेतु ग्रामीण तैयार हैं। इस योजना में जल वसूली के लिए **E-PoS मशीन और QR कोड** का भी उपयोग किया जा रहा है। जल वसूली प्रत्येक माह की 10–25 तारीख तक की जाती है तथा जो लाभार्थी जल शुल्क जमा नहीं करते हैं, उनसे जुर्माना भी लिया जाता है।

तकनीकी रिपोर्ट के लिए पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग के कार्यपालक अभियंता की टीम द्वारा संपूर्ण रिपोर्ट दी जाती है तथा प्रत्येक बैठक की मॉनिटरिंग कार्यपालक अभियंता द्वारा की जाती है। **यूनिसेफ की टीम** द्वारा भी लोगों को जागरूक करने में सहयोग किया जाता है।

7 मुख्य नदियाँ बोकारो जिले से होकर गुजरती हैं, जिनमें तीन प्रमुख नदियाँ – खरकई, दामोदर और बैतरणी – हैं। गर्मी के मौसम में इन नदियों में पानी की कमी रहती है। इसीलिए प्रयास किया जा रहा है कि इन दोनों नदियों में चेक डैम/वियर का निर्माण कर जल का भंडारण वर्ष भर बना रहे। इस दिशा में कार्य किया जा रहा है।

Transformation in Gadchiroli by Empowering Communities through Water Quality Abhiyan

- **Avishyant Panda,** IAS, District Collector, Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra

Avishyant Panda

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, a new approach is being implemented in Gadchiroli district to improve water quality through a special Abhiyan (campaign). The primary objective of this initiative is to ensure safe drinking water for every household and to reduce water scarcity in this geographically challenging region.

Addressing local challenges

The difficult terrain, dense forests, and limited communication infrastructure of Gadchiroli district have long posed serious challenges to its development. Additionally, the low revenue base of many Gram Panchayats makes it difficult to implement large-scale water schemes effectively. To overcome these hurdles, the district administration has adopted innovative, community-based, and solar-powered solutions to make safe drinking water accessible to all.

Solar-powered small water supply scheme

Under this mission, piped water supply scheme is implemented in areas with a population of more than 500. However, solar-powered small water supply scheme is being implemented in areas with a population of less than 500. This has not only improved water availability but also saved energy.

The story of Kuvakodi

Kuvakodi is a small tribal village located 44 km from Bhamragad block and 190 km from Gadchiroli district headquarters. With a population of just 125, it is the last village in Maharashtra near the border of Chhattisgarh. The main occupations of the villagers are agriculture and forest-based livelihoods such as gum and moha flower collection.

Kuvakodi is extremely remote, hilly, and densely forested, with no proper road or communication facilities. The only source of water for the villagers used to be spring water, which would dry up during the summer months. Women had to walk long distances in search of water, spending a large part of their day fetching it, affecting both their health and livelihoods.

Kuwakodi Gram Panchayat is headed by a woman Sarpanch Smt. Somri Sannu Usendi, who decided to

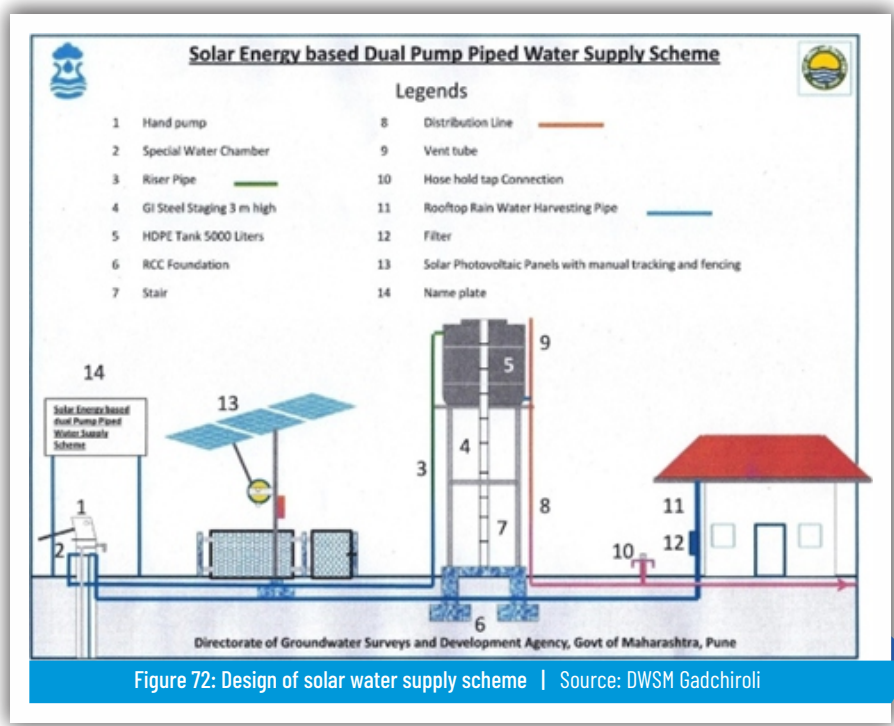

Figure 72: Design of solar water supply scheme | Source: DWSM Gadchiroli

change this situation. Determined to free the women from their daily struggle, she convened a Gram Sabha, where it was unanimously decided to implement Jal Jeevan Mission in the village.

While implementing the scheme, the Zilla Parishad officials tried to take a drilling machine to the village to create a water source but due to lack of roads the drilling machine could not reach the village. To solve this problem, the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch and the villagers decided to create a new water source with their active participation.

All 24 families worked hard day and night for two months and dug a 30-feet deep well as a new water source to quench their thirst. A solar-powered tap water supply scheme for PVTG settlements was implemented in the village under the Jal Jeevan Mission. All 24 families are being supplied with 100% tap water. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, each family is getting 55 LPCD of potable and sustainable drinking water. Now the villagers can invest their saved time in daily wage work, which is not only having a positive impact on their livelihood but also on their health, as all the families use regular toilet facilities due to the availability of water at home. Thus, the Jal Jeevan Mission has helped in ending the toil of women and bringing happiness to the faces of the tribal community in the dense forest.

Women's Contribution

Women have played a significant role in the success of the Jal Jeevan Abhiyan. Many women in Gadchiroli district have been trained to test water quality. These women have gone door to door to test water quality and reported it to the Gram Panchayats. Due to the efforts of these women, the quality of water in the village has improved and health problems have reduced.

Figure 73: A tribal woman fetching water from tap | Source: DWSM Gadchiroli

The participation of women in this campaign has not only improved the quality of water, but has also made women self-reliant. Now these women are playing an important role in the Gram Panchayats and are inspiring other women as well. This story inspires the success of the Jal Jeevan Abhiyan and highlights the importance of women's participation.

Positive Outcomes and Community Ownership

Under this campaign, 1,033 out of 1,082 water supply schemes have already been completed in Gadchiroli district. This has significantly improved water availability and reliability across rural areas.

Furthermore, Gram Panchayats have been entrusted with the management and operation of these schemes, ensuring local accountability and community participation in maintaining infrastructure. This decentralised approach not only enhances ownership but also ensures long-term functionality of the schemes.

Conclusion

The implementation of the Jal Jeevan Abhiyan in Gadchiroli district has brought a remarkable transformation in rural water access and community empowerment. By addressing geographical challenges with innovative, solar-based solutions and women-led participation, the district has demonstrated that even the most remote areas can achieve water security through collective effort.

As Gadchiroli moves forward, continued focus on management, maintenance, and conservation will be key to sustaining these gains. The success of this initiative is a shining example of how community participation, innovation, and women's leadership can transform challenges into opportunities — bringing safe water and renewed hope to every rural household.

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Decision Support System (DSS) for Source Sustainability

- **Ankita Chakravarty,** Deputy Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission, DDWS

Ms. Ankita Chakravarty

Empowering Districts through Data-Driven and Convergent Water Planning

Every rural household today aspires not just to have a tap connection, but to have the assurance that water will continue to flow from it every day. While creating infrastructure for water supply is vital, maintaining the long-term sustainability of these sources is equally critical to ensure reliable service delivery to every rural household. To support this vision, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) is jointly developing a **Decision Support System (DSS)** platform in coordination with BISAG-N, which will help **District Collectors** plan and take decisions based on scientific data to help them plan, prioritise, and monitor interventions for source sustainability.

The DSS is designed to empower districts, it is not intended to replace local judgment but to enhance it. The DSS brings together satellite data, rainfall records, and groundwater maps from national agencies-combining information that was earlier scattered across different departments. The DSS integrates data from multiple national agencies such as the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC). The system is being designed and implemented by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) with DDWS.

By layering and analysing these datasets together, the DSS delivers a holistic view of a district's hydrogeological situation — transforming fragmented information into a single, coherent decision-support environment.

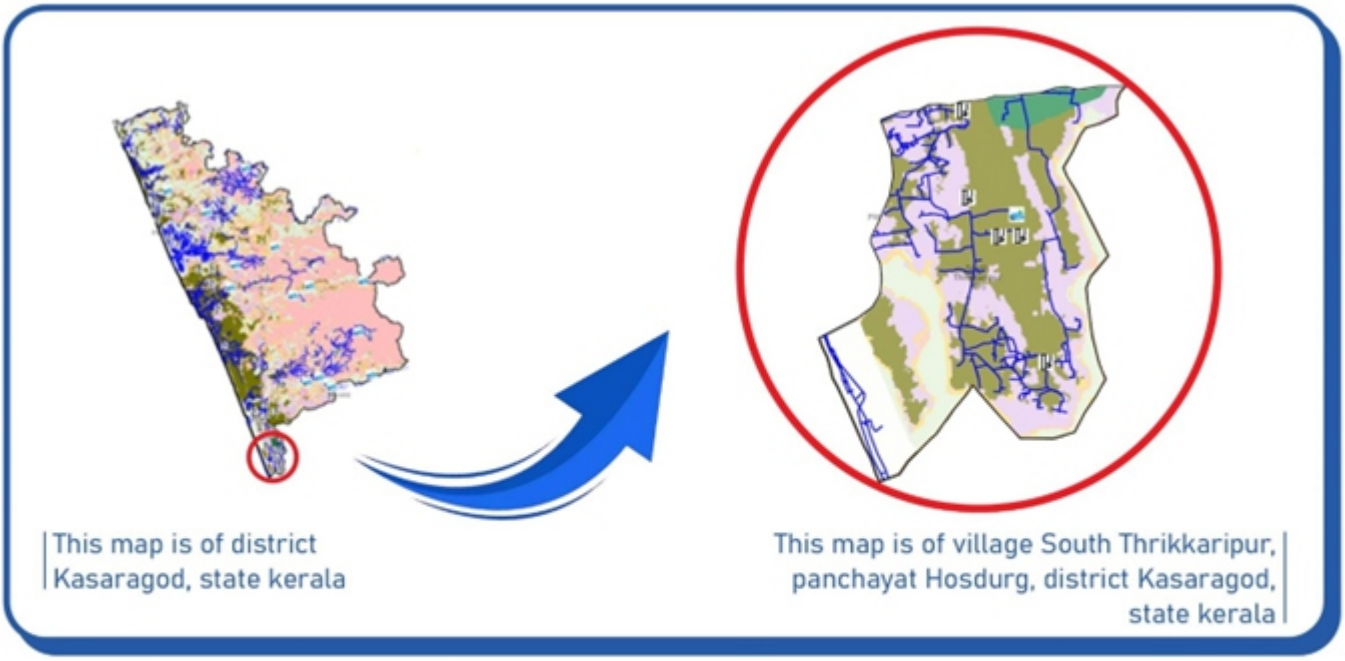
This initiative is closely aligned with the vision of PM GatiShakti — fostering convergence, data sharing, and evidence-based planning across ministries and departments.

Foundation: CGWB's Scientific Zonation Criteria

The analytical backbone of the DSS is built upon the Aquifer Recharge Structure (ARS) Zonation Criteria developed by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) *(shown in Image).*

The DSS serves as a unified framework where data from multiple scientific agencies come together:

Agency	Type of Data Integrated
CGWB (under MoWR)	Groundwater level, aquifer type, zonation criteria
NRSC	Hydrogeomorphological and land use/land cover maps
IMD	Rainfall distribution and seasonal variability
NWIC (Under MoWR)	Surface water networks, catchment boundaries
DDWS / JJM	Geo-tagged drinking water source data



Details of zone corresponding to a specific category of recharge intervention suitable for that area, as per colour coding in Map

A1	Contour Bunds, CCTs, Spring Management, Soil Conservation Structures etc.
A2	Gully plugs, Nalla bunds, Gabions, RFDs(Small Dug out Structure) etc.
A3	Bunds, Stop Dams, Check Dams, Percolation Tank, Recharge Ponds, Sub Surface Barriers (SSB) etc
A4	Surface Storage Structures like Dug out Ponds and Farm Ponds etc.
A5	Rainwater Harvesting with Recharge pits, shafts etc.
A6	Recharge Wells in addition the recharge interventions recommended in A3, A4 & A5.
A7	Small Recharge structures and Surface Storage
A8	Surface Spreading (Contamination-prone areas)
B1	Site specific recharge structures and storage structures like tankas
C1	Not Recommended for AR in general. Site specific, localized interventions may be adopted, if required
C2	Not Recommended for AR in general. Site specific, localized interventions like surface storage may be adopted, if required.

The ARS criteria classify the landscape into 11zones (A1–C2) based on multiple hydrogeological parameters - slope, drainage, aquifer characteristics, depth to water level (DTWL), rainfall, and land use. Each zone corresponds to a specific category of recharge intervention suitable for that area:

- **A1–A3 zones** indicate gentle to moderate slopes suitable for contour bunds, check dams, percolation tanks, recharge ponds, and subsurface barriers.
- **A4 zones** represent agricultural and barren lands where surface storage structures like dugout ponds or farm ponds are appropriate.
- **A5 zones** cover built-up and peri-urban areas where rainwater harvesting and recharge pits are suitable.
- **A6–A8 zones** denote deep aquifers, low-yield areas, and limestone regions, where recharge wells or controlled recharge measures are recommended.
- **C1 and C2 zones** (steep slopes and waterlogged/saline areas) are typically *not recommended* for artificial recharge.

This zonation framework provided a scientific foundation for the DSS, ensuring that every spatial analysis and decision recommendation is rooted in hydrogeological reality.

GIS-Based Zonation, Spatial Analysis and Integration of Hydrogeomorphological Maps

Using the CGWB criteria, the BISAG-N technical team performed GIS-based spatial analysis to delineate **ARS zones** across the district. (Image 1) maintaining the same colour coding between the tabular criteria and the zonation map for visual consistency and interpretability.

Following zonation, Hydrogeomorphological (HGM) maps from NRSC were integrated as an additional layer. HGM maps capture terrain features such as pediplains, valley fills, floodplains, and residual hills — all of which influence groundwater recharge potential including data from IMD regarding Rainfall distribution and seasonal variability. Using terrain and land-use maps from ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre, the DSS helps identify areas where the ground naturally allows water to seep and recharge aquifers.

By overlaying HGM layers on ARS zones, the DSS refines the understanding of recharge feasibility. This integration helps identify areas where suitable geomorphological conditions coincide with favourable recharge zones, thereby optimising site selection for interventions.

A major strength of the DSS lies in linking Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) source data with geospatial analysis. For every village, the DSS integrates JJM's source data, including the geographic coordinates, source type (surface or groundwater), and scheme information. The DSS estimates indicative yield potential by correlating each source's location with the underlying HGM unit. This HGM-based yield estimation helps in classifying sources as high, moderate, or low potential. The DSS, thus, isn't just about data — it's about decisions. It helps ensure that every tap installed under *Har Ghar Jal* continues to flow for generations, by keeping the water source itself alive.

By combining estimated yield with CGWB's DTWL and aquifer data, the DSS provides a realistic picture of source sustainability. For example:

- If a groundwater source lies in a **low-yield zone (A7)** the DSS recommends small recharge structures or surface storage works.
- If it lies in **A3 or A4 zones**, it suggests interventions like check dams or percolation tanks.
- For **A5 zone,** rooftop rainwater harvesting or recharge shafts are advised.

This ensures that interventions are **scientifically guided and site-specific**, maximising the sustainability of drinking water sources.

Through this zonation, each district is spatially classified according to its recharge suitability — from highly feasible recharge areas to restricted zones. This enables administrators to visualise, at a glance, *where recharge is possible and what kind of structure is most appropriate*.

Such a GIS-based view transforms static data into actionable insight, empowering decision-makers to prioritise works in the right locations and avoid technically unsuitable areas.

Empowering Local Water Governance through Evidence-Based Decision Making

District Collectors play a central role in implementing water supply and conservation works. The DSS gives them a clear, scientific view of:

- how rainfall and groundwater conditions are changing,
- which sources are critical or drying up,
- what kind of recharge or conservation measures are suitable, and
- where interventions should be planned first.

DSS also allows DCs to track water supply status, monitor source

functionality, and assess the impact of past interventions. By making this information available on a single dashboard, the DSS promotes transparency and accountability in rural water management.

The DSS transforms scientific data into *simple, actionable maps and indicators* accessible to District Collectors and DWSM teams promoting a proactive decision-making and inter-departmental coordination — ensuring convergence between schemes such as MGNREGS, PMKSY, and JJM for sustainable outcomes. The Decision Support System marks a new phase in India's water journey — one where every district can combine local wisdom with scientific data to protect its water future. As India moves towards universal drinking water coverage, such tools will help ensure that *Har Ghar Jal* is not just achieved, but sustained

The DSS initiative is a model of whole-of-government collaboration, bringing together technical expertise and field-level implementation by bringing together datasets from CGWB, NRSC, IMD, NWIC, and DDWS within a PM GatiShakti-aligned framework, the platform ensures that every *Har Ghar Jal* tap is backed by a scientifically managed and sustainable water source. Currently, the DSS module is in the pilot phase, and seamless coordination among all relevant departments of CGWB and NWIC (under MoWR), NRSC, IMD, will be critical for providing updated datasets and successful implementation of the project for nationwide launch.

The DSS for Source Sustainability is not just a technological tool—it is a strategic enabler for resilient water governance. By equipping DCs/DMs, and Gram Panchayats with precise, location-specific data, it transforms reactive water management into proactive planning. As India moves towards universal drinking water coverage, such innovations will be key to ensuring that water sources remain viable for generations to come.

JJM-Representation at International Level:
India's Representation at UNC Water and Health Conference 2025, USA

- NJJM

Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, IAS, represented India at the prestigious **UNC Water and Health Conference 2025**, held from **27th to 31st October in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA**. The visit **spotlighted India's remarkable journey in rural water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH),** and its commitment to sustainable, inclusive service delivery.

On 27th October 2025, Secretary delivered a **keynote presentation titled "India's Rural WASH Journey: Measurable Change, Sustainable**

Figure 74: Secretary DDWS Spotlight Speaker at UNC Conference | Source: NJJM

Figure 75: Secretary DDWS from stage at UNC Conference | Source: NJJM

Impact" at the UNC Water and Health Conference. The presentation showcased India's transformation from infrastructure-led programs to community-owned service delivery models under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), emphasizing the role of behaviour change, decentralized governance, and sustainability.

The following day, **on 28th October**, he participated in a **high-level panel discussion on "Role of the State in WASH"**, where he shared India's experience in institutional reforms, digital governance, and citizen-led accountability. His insights highlighted how strong political will, empowered local institutions, and technology-driven monitoring have enabled India to scale and sustain its rural WASH achievements.

Sri Meena emphasized that India's WASH efforts are **deeply aligned with global sustainability goals, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 6**, and contribute meaningfully to planetary health. He attributed India's success to several key factors. Foremost among them is the **strong political will and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister**, who has consistently championed sanitation and water access as national priorities. **Decentralized governance** has played a pivotal role, with Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) empowered to lead planning, implementation, and monitoring at the grassroots level. Technology has been a major enabler, with digital tools such as **IMIS dashboards, dedicated dashboards for Gram Panchayats, districts, and states**; the Water Quality Management Information System **(WQMIS)**; and citizen-centric applications like the **Meri Panchayat Application** ensuring transparency, accountability, and real-time monitoring. Additionally, women have emerged as key drivers of change, with over 24.8 lakh trained in water quality testing, reinforcing community ownership and public health outcomes.

India invited global partners to **collaborate on climate-resilient WASH systems**, community-owned O&M models, and South-South knowledge exchange. The Secretary reiterated India's openness to share learnings and adapt best practices from across the world.

The visit reaffirmed **India's leadership in rural WASH** and its commitment to ensuring safe water and sanitation for **every rural household—every day, for generations.**

Figure 76: Secretary DDWS with other penalists at UNC Conference | Source: NJJM

DDWS and BISAG-N Join Hands to Strengthen Digital Monitoring of Rural Water and Sanitation

- **Amit Ranjan,** NPMU-NJJM

The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India on 6th October, 2025 at CGO Complex, New Delhi.

Figure 77: DDWS & BISAG officials with MoM | Source: NJJM

The partnership marks a significant step towards the development of a GIS-integrated, decision-support platform for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] portals. The new platform will enhance data-driven decision-making, planning, monitoring, and evaluation of rural water supply and sanitation initiatives across the country.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, who chaired the event. Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (JJM) and Shri Vinay Thakur, Special Director General, BISAG-N exchanged the signed MoA in the presence of Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-NJJM, and senior officials from both the organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS; emphasized the importance of leveraging geospatial technologies to strengthen transparency, accountability, and efficiency in mission implementation. He stated that the collaboration with BISAG-N is expected to bring cutting-edge GIS capabilities to the existing digital infrastructure of JJM and SBM (G), enabling real-time visualization, analytics, and informed decision support.

The platform will also support the creation and mapping of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS), enabling unique scheme-level IDs and will allow for granular monitoring of water delivery at the household level, facilitating convergence with other rural infrastructure initiatives.

Under the agreement, BISAG-N will provide end-to-end support including database design, map creation, data migration, software development, and systems integration. The platform will also incorporate advanced features such as ground control surveying, digital photogrammetry, vector data capture, and thematic mapping.

Importantly, the initiative will be aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, enabling seamless integration of water and sanitation infrastructure with other sectoral assets. This convergence will help in optimizing resource allocation, improving service delivery, and accelerating infrastructure development in rural areas.

This collaboration aligns with the Government of India's Digital India vision of harnessing technology for inclusive and sustainable development, particularly in rural areas. By integrating spatial intelligence with mission data, DDWS and BISAG-N aim to create a robust digital ecosystem that supports effective planning and monitoring of rural water and sanitation services.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti Concludes Deliberations with Demonstration of Upgraded Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes Module: A Step towards Sustainable and Accountable Rural Water Services

- **Amit Ranjan,** NPMU-NJJM

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Mention date culminated weeks of intensive deliberations on strengthening service delivery and sustainability at the grassroots with a demonstration of the upgraded Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS) module – a major stride towards digital transformation in rural water governance.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, and attended by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), and Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary, along with senior officials from the Ministry and from States/UTs like Karnataka, Punjab, Ladakh, Sikkim and Lakshadweep physically. Over 1,000 participants from all States and Union Territories, including their Mission Directors joined the session virtually.

Figure 78: Secretary, DDWS chaired the RPWSS ID briefing meeting with all States/ Uts

In his address, Secretary, DDWS stated that the new RPWSS module will serve as a cornerstone of transparency, accountability, and efficiency under Jal Jeevan Mission. RPWSS will act as a Digital Registry for Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS) and rollout of unique RPWSS IDs - a step towards smarter and efficient O&M of rural water infrastructure. He described the RPWSS ID as a unique digital identity tag for every piped water supply scheme — enabling transparency, traceability, geo-tagged data for effective monitoring, operation, and maintenance (O&M) and data-driven governance. **He urged all States and UTs to prioritize and complete the creation of RPWSS IDs by November 2025, ensuring full data integrity and coverage**.

Figure 79: Shri Ashok K K Meena, Secretary, DDWS while addressing the participants

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, reiterated the importance of creating unique RPWSS IDs for each scheme to

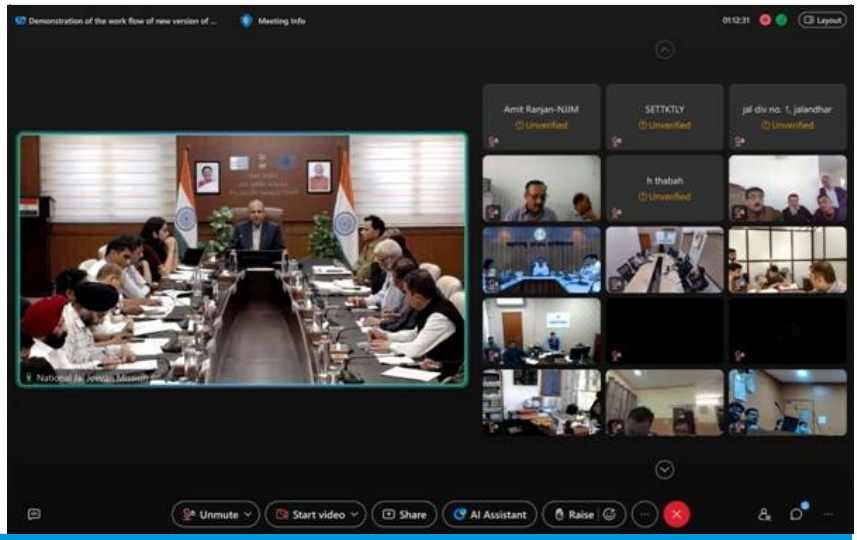


Figure 80: Participants across States/ UTs joined the virtual conference

ensure transparency and accountability in implementation. He also echoed the Secretary's vision of establishing a verified, data-driven mechanism for efficient operation and maintenance (O&M) across all levels. Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary-NJJM welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of establishing a structured digital backbone for rural water management.

States and Union Territories committed to ensuring that all rural water supply assets are accurately reflected on the portal, underscoring their shared responsibility in building a reliable and verifiable national database for rural water systems.

The upgraded RPWSS module represents a major leap towards building a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the rural water supply sector. The system facilitates the creation of a GIS-based digital asset registry, capturing every component of a piped water supply scheme, right from water source and treatment plant to pipelines, distribution networks, and household tap connections, and linking them spatially through the PM Gati Shakti platform.

Empowering Panchayats and Strengthening Local Governance

Through the RPWSS framework, Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) will gain access to real-time, verified data on water systems, allowing them to monitor functionality, track water quality, and make informed decisions on O&M. By empowering local institutions with digital tools and insights, the system aims to strengthen decentralized governance and ensure true community ownership of rural water infrastructure.

The new platform is also designed to create local livelihood opportunities and skill development pathways in the rural WASH sector, from data management and asset mapping to predictive maintenance and analytics. These emerging skill domains will help strengthen rural economies, enhance service reliability, and build self-sustaining systems.

Enhancing Efficiency through Technology

The upgraded module integrates real-time dashboards, predictive analytics for source sustainability, maintenance scheduling, and decision-support systems for O&M. The RPWSS ID initiative forms a foundational layer of DPI for rural water supply, enabling GIS-based monitoring, asset management, analytics dashboards, predictive maintenance, decision support, and the creation of digital twins for improved O&M efficiency.

The meeting concluded with an announcement of successive training sessions and workshops to assist States and field functionaries in adopting the new digital framework, ensuring that the RPWSS system evolves into a robust foundation for sustained service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

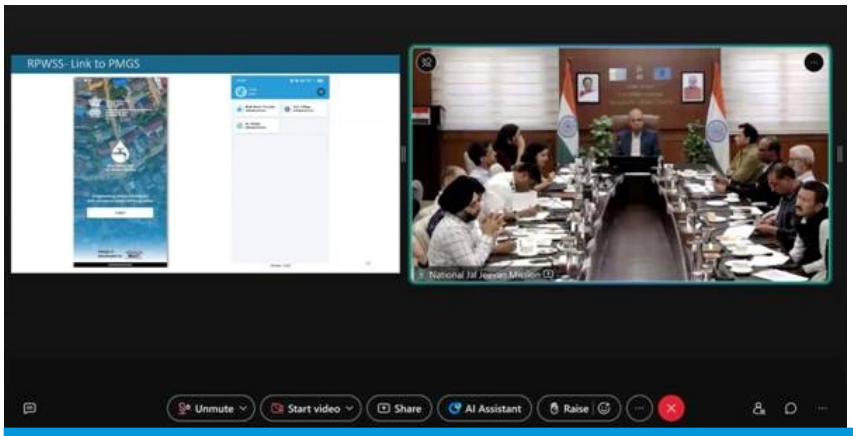


Figure 81: Live Demo of JJM dashboard and link with PM Gati Shakti

MoS met Vice-President

On 22 October, 2025 Sri V. Somanna, Union Minister of State (MoS) in Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India met Hon'ble Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan in New Delhi and presented 'Kayaka Yogi', a book highlighting the achievements of the Ministries of Jal Shakti and Railways over the past year. Also apprised him of the various developmental initiatives undertaken in his Tumakuru constituency.

Figure 82: 'Kayaka Yogi' book being presented to hon'ble Vice President | Source: X handle of V.Somanna

Visit of MoS

On 9 October, 2025 Sri V Somanna, Union Minister of State (MoS) in Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India visited the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Surat, Gujarat, and reviewed its operations. He witnessed live demonstrations and presentations on solid waste management, GIS applications, CCTV monitoring, and SCADA-based water supply. He also visited the Tertiary Treatment and Reuse Facilities plant (Liquid Waste Management) at Bamroli, Surat and reviewed its operations.

Figure 83: Mos V.Somanna at sapling point, Surat | Source: X handle of V.Somanna

Figure 84: Mos V.Somanna with officials of Surat | Source: X handle of V.Somanna

Awards and Recognition

Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred an award upon Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), in recognition of his exemplary leadership in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

The award was presented during the National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, held on 17th October 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

This prestigious recognition celebrates outstanding efforts in enhancing convergence, strengthening last-mile service delivery, and achieving measurable outcomes in tribal regions under the PM-JANMAN initiative.

Figure 85: Shri Ashok K K Meena, Secretary-DDWS at the ceremony

Meetings and Workshops

Meeting 1

On 9th October 2025, a delegation of Hon'ble Members of Parliament from the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Jal Shakti met Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil. During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion was held on the safe and beneficial use of treated water. The reuse model presented by Surat was appreciated for its foresight and was recognized as an inspiring example not only for Gujarat but for the entire nation. In alignment with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Waste to Wealth' and 'water conservation', Surat's pioneering efforts in sanitation and water management were further strengthened. These initiatives are expected to contribute significantly towards achieving water security in India.

Figure 86-87: C. R Patil, MoJS interacting with MPs at Surat | Source: X handle of C R Patil

Meeting 2

Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS; chaired a review meeting with States/ UTs to push for effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission on 3rd October, 2025. The focus was on CNO visits, submission of reports, O&M policy, ATRs of 3rd CS Conference, etc.

During the meeting, Secretary, DDWS ;directed all States/ UTs to notify O&M Policy of JJM by 30th October 2025, empowering local self-help groups & enabling rule-making for sustainable water supply. *#JalJeevanMission*

Further, AS&MD, NJJM; led a detailed state-wise review, assessing progress on O&M policy, ATRs of surprise visits, CS conference action points which covers- WQ, Sustaining of schemes, ease-of-Living, convergence of resources, monitoring, etc. States shared timelines & readiness for compliance.

States were urged to focus on "Clean The Tank" activity as CTU under SHS campaign through-out the year, activate VWSCs & village-level functionaries via GP Acts & Rules. Execution must be decentralized through PACS, SHGs, and local resources to ensure ownership & sustainability.

Further, a glimpse of difference in expenditure of PFMS and IMIS, status of scheme wise reconciliation, workflow of the process to update/ access the information, overview of reconciliation form, etc was shown. Meeting saw participation from State/UT Mission Directors, Engineers-in-Chief, senior officials, NJJM Area Officers & NPMU team.

Figure 88: Secretary, DDWS chaired the review meeting with DDWS officials

Meeting 3

Shri K.K. Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission chaired a meeting on 9th October, 2025 for the saturation of piped water supply to villages in mines area including Coal, and Lignite Mines Areas.

The discussion centered on ease of access of the marginalized and tribal communities in these regions, ensuring they have a sustainable and potable water supply for the next 25-30 years in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of providing clean tap water to every rural household.

Shri Soan highlighted the need for the Strategic Funding using DMF and CSR resources for covering small and transient left out habitations, solarization of existing water supply schemes to reduce the O&M burden on community, supplement the water availability in such areas.

MD Chhattisgarh attended as special guest and was requested to review the status of water supply in the

villages coming in the buffer zone and share it with Coal/ Mines Department. AS&MD-NJJM appreciated participants in breaking silos, sharing the data so that meaningful services could be provide to the vulnerable pollution.

The meeting was attended by Shri Pradeep Singh, Director DDWS. The meeting saw active participation from the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Coal, and state-level Mission Directors from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal. Key PSUs including ECL, BCCL, CCL, NCL, SECL, and NLCIL were also present, highlighting a unified approach.

Figure 89: Shri K.K. Soan, AS&MD chaired and DDWS officials during the meeting

AS&MD Chaired meeting with Ministry of Cooperation

Taking forward the whole of government approach, for ensuring drinking water supply in rural areas, AS&MD-NJJM chaired a meeting on 10.10.2025 with #Gujarat, #Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra to discuss engaging Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) for O&M of completed rural water supply schemes.

The meeting focused on enabling PACS participation in scheme maintenance, recovery of user charges, and convergence with State Cooperation Departments. States shared updates on O&M policies, scheme completion status, defect liability, manpower needs, and existing contractual arrangements. Discussions included assessing Nal Jal Mitras for PACS engagement, reviewing PACS performance, and planning joint meetings with Ministry of Cooperation. The initiative aims to strengthen grassroots O&M through PACS, ensuring sustainability and functionality of completed schemes under #JalJeevanMission.

Innovation for Sustainable Rural Water Security Discussed at IAHS 2025

A special session on “Innovation for Sustainable Rural Water Security” was chaired by Sh. Ashok K K Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), during IAHS 2025 at IIT Roorkee on 5th October 2025.

In his opening remarks, it was emphasized that the challenge lies not only in infrastructure development but also in ensuring its effective operation and maintenance, efficient resource utilization, and the sustainability of the entire hydrological cycle within villages and Gram Panchayats. The session highlighted the need for innovative approaches to strengthen rural water security in a sustainable manner.

Figure 90-91: K. K Meena at Innovation for Sustainable Rural Water Security during IAHS 2025 at IIT Roorkee | Source: IIT Roorkee

Field Visit

AS & MD to Jharkhand

श्री कमल किशोर सोन, अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक (NJJM) ने झारखंड के आकांक्षी जिले लोहरदगा एवं आकांक्षी ब्लॉकों में जल जीवन मिशन और स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) की प्रगति की समीक्षा बैठक दिनांक 15 अक्टूबर 2025 को की। बैठक में ज़िला प्रशासन, शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण, जल गुणवत्ता, और पंचायत विभाग के अधिकारियों के साथ चर्चा की गई।

बैठक के दौरान, श्री सोन ने सभी स्कूलों एवं आंगनवाड़ियों में नल कनेक्शन सुनिश्चित करने, बालिका विद्यालयों में बेहतर पेयजल व्यवस्था उपलब्ध कराने, जल स्रोतों की दीर्घकालिक सुरक्षा हेतु प्रस्ताव तैयार करने, तथा जल गुणवत्ता परीक्षण की नियमित रिपोर्टिंग सुनिश्चित करने पर विशेष बल दिया।

साथ ही, हर 15 दिन में जल संदूषण (Water Contamination) की समीक्षा, PVTG परिवारों को प्राथमिकता से नल से जल उपलब्ध कराना, और सभी घरों को नल कनेक्शन का प्रमाणन सुनिश्चित करने पर बल दिया गया। बैठक के दौरान उन्होंने बताया, RSETI के सहयोग से ग्राम पंचायत स्तर पर O&M प्रशिक्षण की योजना बनाई जा रही है। इसके अतिरिक्त उन्होंने अवगत कराया की, NCERT पाठ्यक्रम में बच्चों के लिए जल जीवन मिशन और स्वच्छ भारत मिशन से संबंधित विषयों को शामिल करने की दिशा में भी कार्य हो रहा है। जिला समीक्षा बैठक उपरांत, अपर सचिव एवं मिशन निदेशक ने जल जीवन मिशन एवं स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) के प्रगति की राज्य स्तरीय समीक्षा बैठक की अध्यक्षता की।

समीक्षात्मक बैठक में मुख्य रूप से नल जल मित्र के प्रशिक्षण, JJM IMIS में Data Cleaning, योजनाओं को पूर्ण करने, मनरेगा इत्यादि योजनाओं से Source Sustainability की रणनीति बनाने, PM-JANMAN अंतर्गत योजनाओं को पूर्ण करने तथा छुटे हुए PVTG टोलों को योजनाओं को आच्छादित करने और जल गुणवता पर जोर दिया गया।

साथ ही स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण) चरण-2 अंतर्गत ODF प्लस गाँव बनाने पर दिशा-निर्देश दिया गया।

इस समीक्षात्मक बैठक में पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार से श्री मस्त राम मीना, प्रधान सचिव, श्री रमेश घोलप, अभियान निदेशक, जल जीवन मिशन, श्री मनोहर मरांडी, अभियान निदेशक, स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण), सभी मुख्य अभियंता, यूनिसेफ के पदाधिकारी तथा अन्य पदाधिकारी उपस्थित थे।

Figure 92: Secretary DDWS chairing the meeting | *Source: NJJM*

Joint Secretary (Water) to Madhya Pradesh

Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (water), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, undertook a field visit to Madhya Pradesh to review the ongoing works under Jal Jeevan Mission.

On 28 October, she visited District Niwari (Village Chandapura under Prathvipur-1 MVS), where she interacted with villagers, VWSC members, and Jal Sahelis, and inspected the Jal Kar Register. She later attended the DWSM meeting in District Tikamgarh to review the Jal Nigam Bansujara Tikamgarh MVS Scheme.

During her visit to District Chhatarpur, she inspected the Bansujara Badamalhera MVS at Village Beeron, reviewed the functioning of the SCADA system at the OHT, and interacted with the District Collector.

On 29 October, Smt. Naik visited the Tarped MVS WTP to review component works and inspect the laboratory, cube testing, steel work, and precast units. She also chaired a review meeting under the Aspirational District Programme in Chhatarpur to assess the overall progress of projects and ensure quality implementation under JJM.

Figure 93-94: Swati Meena Naik, JS (Water) during her visit to Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

Deputy Secretary to Bundelkhand

Sri Ananjaya Tiwari, Deputy Secretary, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), undertook a field visit to the Bundelkhand region from 28th to 31st October 2025. Covering two districts each in Uttar Pradesh (Banda and Lalitpur) and Madhya Pradesh (Niwari and Panna), he visited multiple villages to engage directly with the local communities. During his interactions, he emphasized the importance of regularity, quality, and quantity in water supply, and encouraged community participation in sustaining the progress made under JJM.

Figure 95-96: Sri Ananjaya Tiwari, Deputy Secretary field visit to the Bundelkhand | Source: NJJM

Over 81% Households have Tap Water Connections under JJM

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Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
National Jal Jeevan Mission
New Delhi - 110 003
e - mail: rnd-ddws@gov.in