

Jal Jeevan Samvad

December | Volume 6 | Issue 12 | Year 2025



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Theme: Peyjal Samvad
& Jal Arpan – A Cross-Learning &
District/ Village Dialogues Series



Articles by Director, NJJM
and DC/DMs of 5 districts

Contents



Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission.....1

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

Foreword by the Secretary, DDWS3

Note from the desk of Additional Secretary & Mission Director4

JJM Progress

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)5

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

Articles

When Every Voice Matters: Inside the 2nd Sujal Gram Samvad - Shailika Sinha.....7

Jal Seva Aankalan: From Assets to Assurance - The New Paradigm of Rural Water Governance - Lopamudra Panda18

Jal Arpan: From Infrastructure to Stewardship - Lopamudra Panda23

Strengthening Rural Water Governance Through Grassroots Leadership: Reflections from the 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad - Lopamudra Panda36

Jal Arpan Diwas: From Infrastructure Creation to Community Ownership - Yogendra Kumar Singh, Director, NJJM & Chanchal Modi.....41

From Scarcity to Security: Kamjong District's Journey under Jal Jeevan Mission - Rangnamei Rang Peter, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate, Kamjong District, Manipur46



From Promise to People's Everyday Confidence - Dhar District's Journey under Jal Jeevan Mission - Priyank Mishra, District Collector & Magistrate, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.....49

Haridwar's Drinking Water supply Journey - Strengthening Decentralized Water Governance - Mayur Dixit, Collector cum District Magistrate, Haridwar...53

Mission 100 - Davangere model of 24*7 water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission - Gangadhara Swamy G.M., Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere, Karnataka.....57

सुशासन, सहभागिता और संकल्प: लातेहार में जल जीवन मिशन की ऐतिहासिक सफलता की गाथा - उत्कर्ष गुप्ता, उपायुक्त, लातेहार, झारखंड61

Review Meeting with State/UTs..64

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:

63rd (December 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

Reproduction in any form is prohibited without written permission. Any dispute related to the content of the magazine should be addressed to the publisher.



Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



C R Patil

Minister of Jal Shakti

आज 'जल जीवन मिशन' के अंतर्गत 'जल सेवा आकलन (JSA)' का ई-लॉन्च किया गया। इस ऐतिहासिक पहल के जरिए अब गाँव के लोग स्वयं पानी की आपूर्ति और शुद्धता का मूल्यांकन करेंगे, जिससे व्यवस्था में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही आएगी। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के विजन से 'हर घर जल' का सपना अब एक सशक्त जन-आंदोलन बन चुका है। यूपी, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान के ग्रामीणों से संवाद कर इस संकल्प को और मजबूती मिली। जल संरक्षण और प्रबंधन में जन-भागीदारी ही भविष्य की नींव है।

- Post mentioned in X handle
30th December, 2025

”



Minister of State, Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



V. Somanna

Minister of State for Jal Shakti

‘Jal Seva Aankalan’ under JJM will empower communities and Gram Sabhas to assess piped water supply projects, ensuring safe drinking water for children and families. The event was also attended by Hon’ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti and my colleague Dr Rajbhushan Chaudhary at the ministry. Congratulations to the entire Department and States/ UTs for this great initiative which will help in realise the dream of Hon’ble Prime Minister’s Har Ghar Jal programme.

- Post mentioned in X handle
30th December, 2025



Foreword



December offered something more valuable than milestones – it offered perspective! As the year draws to a close, it is an appropriate moment to pause and reflect on the journey undertaken, the progress achieved, and the direction ahead. The drinking water sector has witnessed significant momentum over the past year, driven by collective effort, institutional commitment, and sustained engagement at all levels. The December issue of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* captures this moment of transition—where scale is increasingly accompanied by depth, and access by accountability.

One of the defining aspects of this month has been the emphasis on dialogue and reflection. Platforms such as District Collector's Peyjal Samvad and Sujal Gram Samvad continue to strengthen the feedback loop between policy, implementation, and community experience. These interactions reaffirm the belief that sustainable service delivery is best achieved when voices from the field inform decision-making at higher levels.

This issue carries a detailed account of selected districts drawn from 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, offering valuable insights into district-level planning, implementation challenges, and innovative practices. These narratives reflect the diversity of local contexts while also highlighting the shared commitment of district administrations towards strengthening drinking water services.

The issue also features experiences from eight Gram Panchayat headquarter villages showcased during the 2nd Sujal Gram Samvad. These villages demonstrate how community leadership, local institutions, and effective management can together translate infrastructure into reliable and sustainable services. Such examples serve as practical reference points for replication and learning across regions.

In addition, the observance of Jal Arpan Diwas during the month has reinforced the importance of nurturing a culture of respect and responsibility towards water through Jan Bhagidari. During the month, two states observed Jal Arpan, where Members of Parliament and MLAs joined and handed over the water supply scheme to the GP and VWSC. By integrating values of conservation and stewardship into public consciousness, such initiatives complement technical and institutional efforts with social and behavioural dimensions.

This month also witnessed the national e launch of Jal Seva Aankalan, a digital tool designed to strengthen Jan Bhagidari by enabling Gram Panchayats to carry out functionality assessments of their rural water supply systems.

As we step into a new year, the sector carries forward both confidence and responsibility. The aspirations ahead are clear to consolidate gains, strengthen service quality, and deepen community ownership. It is with this sense of purpose that this issue is presented, as a record of progress and a guide for the journey that lies ahead.

Ashok K. K. Meena

Secretary,

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation





Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...



The drinking water sector in rural India is now moving to the next level. Where earlier, the main goal was to build pipes and taps so people could get water at home. Now, the focus is on making sure the water supply is of good quality, reliable every day, and sustainable for the future. This month's developments show this change clearly, the effort is shifting from just giving access to water to checking how well the system works, involving the community, and making local institutions responsible.

One of the most significant milestones of the month was the launch of Jal Seva Aankalan, which represents an important step towards institutionalising service-level assessment in rural drinking water supply. By introducing a structured framework to evaluate parameters such as regularity of supply, adequacy of water quality, operation and maintenance, source sustainability, and village-level management arrangements, Jal Seva Aankalan strengthens the shift towards outcome-based governance. The initiative is expected to generate reliable, comparable data that can support informed decision-making, enable timely corrective action, and enhance transparency at all levels of implementation. Over time, such assessment mechanisms will be critical in ensuring that drinking water systems remain functional, responsive, and sustainable beyond their initial commissioning.

Alongside institutional reforms, December also reinforced the importance of community engagement and behavioural change through the observance of Jal Arpan Diwas in Kundibeh village (Rajgarh district, Madhya Pradesh) and Jungal Tikonía No.3 village (Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh). Rooted in the ethos of gratitude and stewardship, Jal Arpan encourages communities to symbolically offer water back to nature, thereby promoting a deeper understanding of conservation and responsible usage. This initiative highlights the role of social and cultural practices in complementing technical solutions, recognising that sustainable water management ultimately depends on collective attitudes and everyday behaviour at the household and community levels.

The 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad further advanced discussions around Jal Arpan, water quality, service delivery, and system management. As coverage expands, the emphasis is increasingly shifting towards ensuring reliability and trust in the service – areas that demand strong institutional coordination, capacity building, and community participation.

Equally important was the 2nd Sujal Gram Samvad, which reaffirmed the central role of villages in sustaining drinking water systems. Experiences shared during the Samvad highlighted that decentralised decision-making and local ownership significantly enhance system resilience and long-term service delivery.

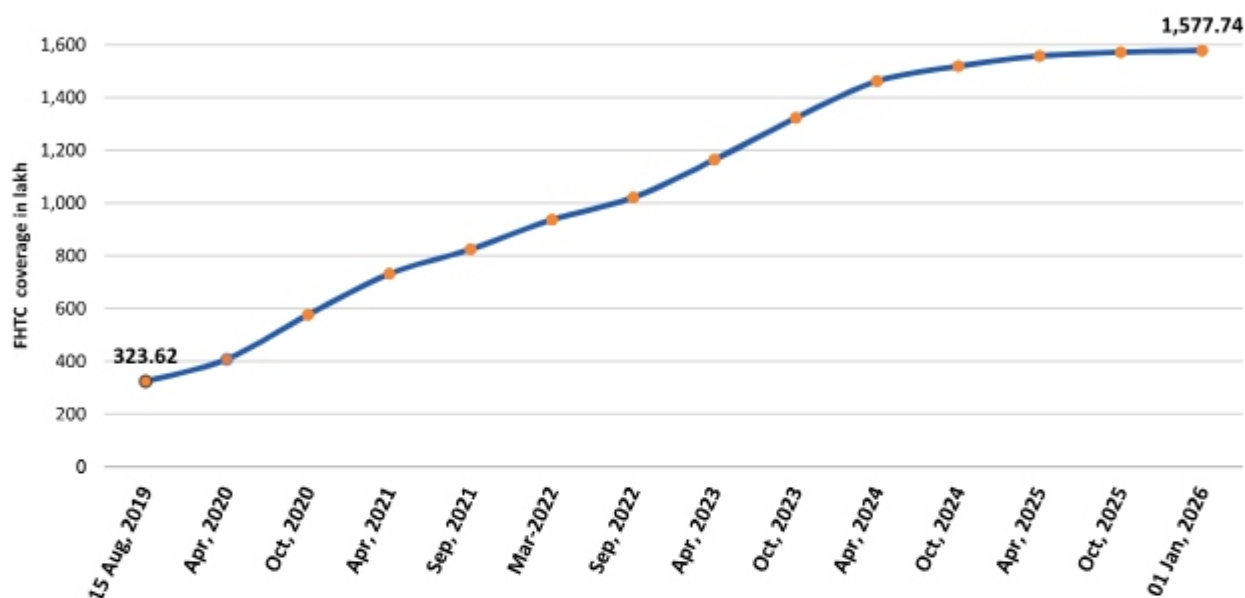
As another year draws to a close, these developments offer an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, the lessons learned, and the priorities that lie ahead.

Kamal Kishore Soan

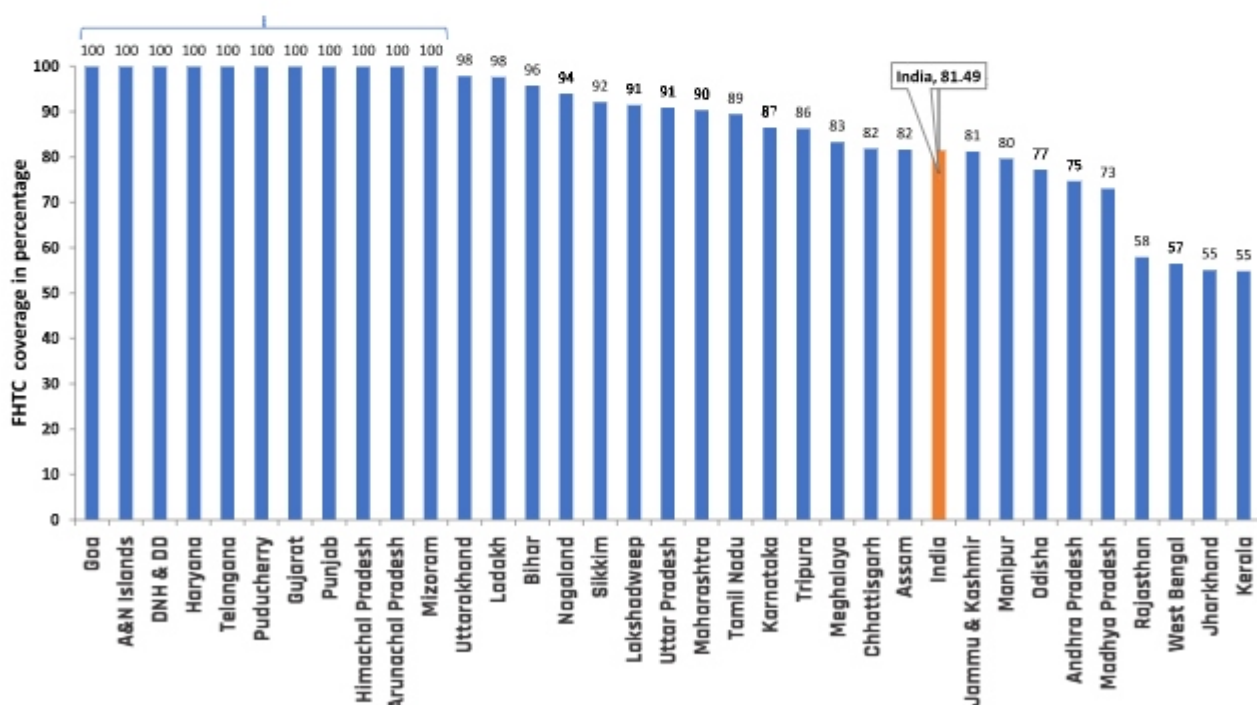
Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NJM)
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation



Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.12.2025)



Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.12.2025)



- Graphical representation by Arpan Sarkar, NPMU-NJIM



As on 31st December, 2025

Source: JIM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes



Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,54,11,259 (77.78%)

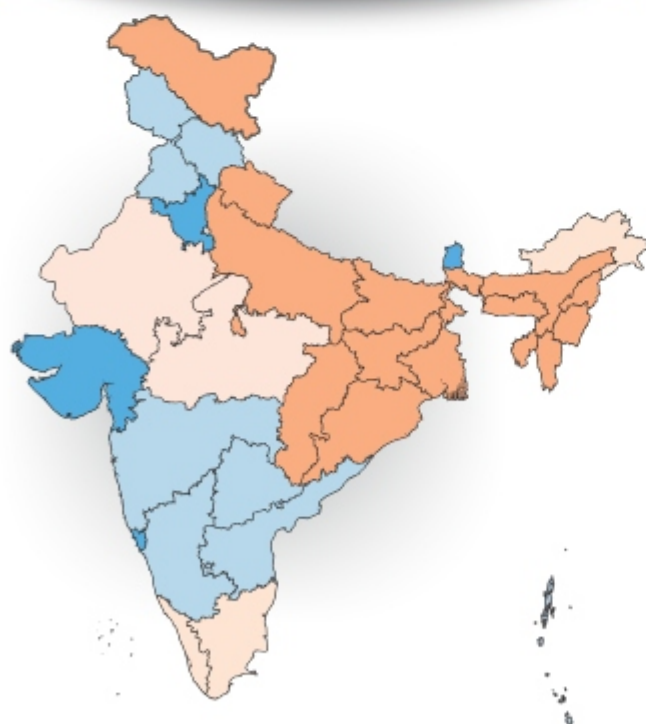
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

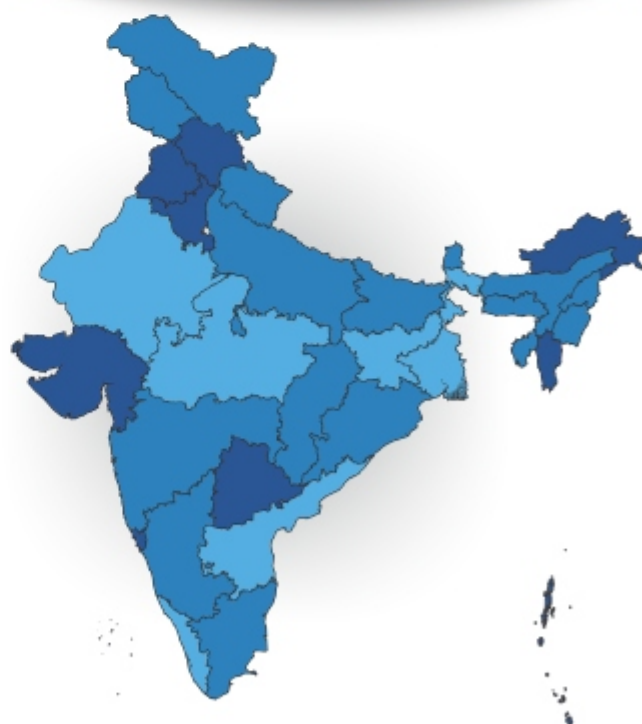
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat



As on 15th August, 2019



As on 31st December 2025



0 to <10%

10% to <25%

25% to <50%

50% to <75%

75% to <100%

100%



When Every Voice Matters: Inside the 2nd Sujal Gram Samvad

How a nationwide, village-led dialogue is transforming rural water governance and community life under the Jal Jeevan Mission

– Shailika Sinha, NJJM

Water is life, not just in the literal sense, but in shaping the contours of daily life. It dictates the rhythm of mornings and evenings, the health of families, the attendance of children in school, and the time women can claim for themselves. For generations, this relationship with water was marked by uncertainty—by long walks, seasonal scarcity, and anxious dependence on distant sources. In recent years, Jal Jeevan Mission has begun to alter this reality at scale, bringing safe drinking water into millions of households. Yet as infrastructure spreads across the country, a more enduring question has come to the fore: how do these systems remain trusted, functional

and sustainable long after the pipes are laid?

That question lay at the heart of the **Second Edition of Sujal Gram Samvad**, held on **19th December 2025**. More than a formal review or a virtual gathering, it unfolded as a listening exercise, encompassing the belief that sustainable governance begins not with directives, but with dialogue.

What distinguished this dialogue from the outset was its tone. When Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, **Shri C. R. Patil** opened the interaction with villagers from Zahirpura in Gujarati, greeting them warmly and

inviting them to speak freely, the atmosphere shifted instantly. Similarly **Shri V. Somanna, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti**, addressed villagers from Kodi in Kannada, setting aside formality in favour of familiarity. These moments, small in appearance, carried deep significance. Language here was not a translation tool; it was an act of respect. It signalled that the conversation would take place on the villagers' terms, in the languages they live and think in.

More than **8,000 participants** joined the dialogue virtually, including from Gram Panchayats across **eight States and Union Territories** – Gujarat,



Figure 1: Union Minister and Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, along with Secretary DWS, during the Second Sujal Gram Samvad, interacting with village representatives | Source: NJJM

Details of Participating Villages

Sl. No.	State	District	Village	Language
1	Gujarat	Mehsana	Zahirpura	Gujarati
2	Karnataka	Udupi	Kodi	Kannada
3	Sikkim	Pakyong	Pacheykhani	Nepali
4	Jammu & Kashmir	Shopian	Awneera	Urdu, Hindi
5	Assam	Jorhat	Dakin Porbotia	Assamese
6	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Kaluwala	Pahadi / Dogri / Hindi
7	Jharkhand	Simdega	Aarani	Sadri
8	Maharashtra	Chandrapur	Lohara	Marathi

Karnataka, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. Women's self-help group members, Jal Sakhis, Jal Sahelis, Village Water and Sanitation Committee representatives, school students, frontline workers and officials at multiple levels spoke candidly about what water access has changed in their lives – and what it still demands from them.

There was no single story, but many, shaped by geography and culture. And yet, as the hours passed, a shared understanding emerged: water systems endure not because they are built, but because they are cared for.

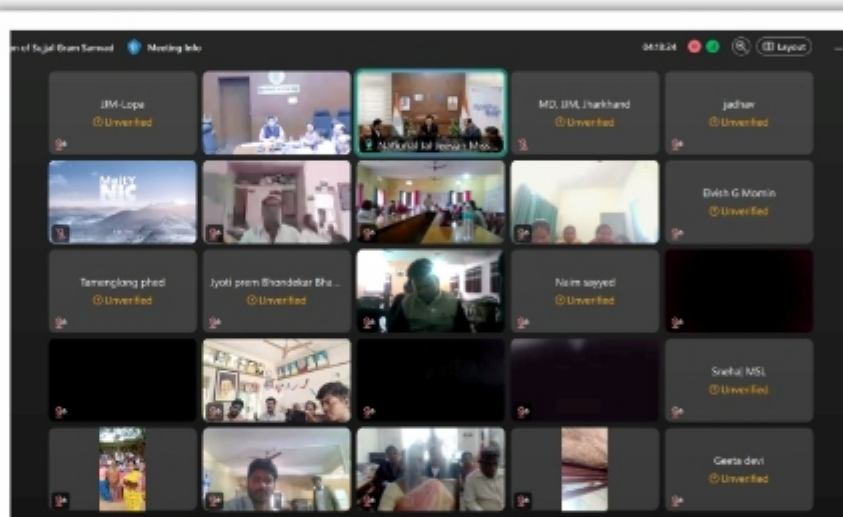


Figure 2: Village representatives, district officials and national leadership connect virtually during the Second Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM



Figure 3: Village representatives, sharing experience virtually during the Second Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM

Gujarat



Zahirpura (Molipur), Mehsana – Gujarat

- 💧 Community-managed system operational for **18 years**
- 💧 **₹700 annual user charge per household**
- 💧 **100% tariff collection**
- 💧 Funds used for electricity, pump upkeep, pipeline repairs and tank cleaning
- 💧 Regular OHT cleaning and *Swachhata Shramdaan*
- 💧 Routine water quality testing and prompt repair mechanism



With a population of about 1,410 people across 255 households, the village of Zahirpura today enjoys **100 per cent household tap connections**, sustained not merely by infrastructure but by collective discipline and trust.

Once dependent on tankers and distant sources, households now organise their days with confidence. Women described how access to clean drinking water has reduced water-borne illnesses, cutting medical expenses and freeing household resources, savings that are increasingly being invested in their children's education. Time once lost to fetching water has been reclaimed for livelihoods, learning and rest.

At the heart of this system is the village's **Pani Samiti**, which has evolved from a nominal committee into a robust local institution. For the past 18 years, it has overseen operations and maintenance, tariff collection and system upkeep. Every household contributes an annual water user charge of **₹700**, and collection stands at **100 per cent**, a figure villagers speak of with pride rather than obligation. Transparency has been key: people know where their

- 💧 Community-managed system operational for **18 years**
- 💧 **₹700 annual user charge per household**
- 💧 **100% tariff collection**
- 💧 Funds used for electricity, pump upkeep, pipeline repairs and tank cleaning
- 💧 Regular OHT cleaning and *Swachhata Shramdaan*

- 💧 Routine water quality testing and prompt repair mechanism money goes, how it is spent, and why timely contributions matter.

The funds collected are used to cover electricity costs, pump maintenance, pipeline repairs, tank cleaning and other operational expenses. Regular overhead tank (OHT) cleaning and community-led *shramdaan* activities ensure that the system remains hygienic and efficient. As a result, the infrastructure though years old continues to function as if it were newly installed.

Equity in distribution has been another cornerstone of Zahirpura's success. Water is supplied on a fixed schedule, with clear rules that ensure fairness across the village. Regular monitoring and prompt repairs mean that leakages or disruptions are addressed quickly, preventing minor issues from becoming major failures. Water quality testing is conducted routinely, reinforcing confidence in the safety of the supply.

Villagers also spoke about how the culture of water governance has been consciously passed on to younger generations. Youth are involved in cleanliness drives, awareness activities and system monitoring, helping them understand that water security is a shared responsibility, not a guaranteed entitlement. Conservation practices, both at source and at household level, are discussed openly, reflecting a long-term vision that extends beyond immediate needs.



Figure 4: Village representatives from Zahirpura in conversation with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti | Source: NJJM



Karnataka



Kodi, Udipi - Karnataka

- 💧 First GP in Udipi district with **24×7 water supply**
- 💧 Volumetric billing with slab-based tariffs
- 💧 Cloud-based billing and POS payment system
- 💧 Automated pump operations
- 💧 Active role of **Nal Jal Mitras** (women SHG members)
- 💧 Strong VWSC leadership with women's participation



Kodi Gram Panchayat, located in Brahmavara Block of Udipi district, has emerged as a leading example of **community-managed, sustainable drinking water services** under the Jal Jeevan Mission. With a population of 6,308 across 1,097 households, the Gram Panchayat has achieved **Har Ghar Jal certification** and, notably, became the **first in the district to declare 24×7 drinking water supply**, benefiting nearly **3,500 people from 644 households**.

The village's **Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)** forms the backbone of the system, taking responsibility for planning, oversight and accountability. Women play a prominent role in this structure. Supporting

the VWSC are **Nal Jal Mitras**, many of whom are drawn from women's self-help groups. Their involvement extends beyond routine tasks: they conduct water-quality testing, support tariff collection, monitor infrastructure and act as the first point of contact for households. This local presence has strengthened trust and responsiveness, ensuring that issues are addressed before they escalate.

Kodi has also embraced technology as a tool for transparency rather than complexity. The Gram Panchayat has adopted **volumetric billing**, moving away from flat charges to a system that encourages responsible water use. **Cloud-based billing platforms, automated pump operations and digital records** have made payments traceable and system performance visible – both to administrators and to citizens. Over time, these measures have helped build a shared understanding that paying for water is an investment in reliability.

Financial sustainability has followed naturally. User charges are sufficient to cover operation and maintenance costs, and the Panchayat maintains a healthy surplus to meet future requirements. Regular VWSC meetings review expenditures, plan preventive maintenance and discuss system performance, reinforcing collective ownership. Community-led cleanliness drives, overhead tank cleaning and awareness campaigns further embed water stewardship into everyday village life.

Sustainability Snapshot

- 💧 **OHTs: 3 (Total capacity: 300 KL)**
- 💧 **Water Sources: 4 open wells, no borewells**
- 💧 **FY 2024–25 (till Oct 2025):**
 - o Income: ₹3.38 lakh
 - o Expenditure: ₹2.83 lakh
 - o Closing balance: ₹0.55 lakh
- 💧 **Funds used for O&M, honorariums and minor repairs**

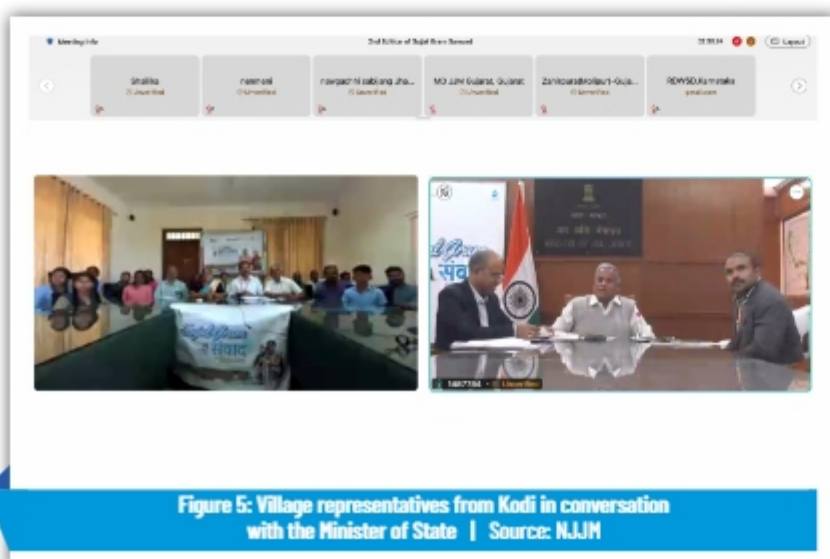


Figure 5: Village representatives from Kodi in conversation with the Minister of State | Source: NJJM



Sikkim



Pacheykhani, Pakyong – Sikkim



- 💧 Dedicated **WASH Centre** for grievance redressal
- 💧 First-level resolution of issues within the village
- 💧 Active VWSC managing O&M, water quality and awareness
- 💧 Capacity building of women and youth for water testing
- 💧 Strong focus on school and Anganwadi WASH programmes

Interactions in Pacheykhani brought together **VWSC members, school children, Anganwadi workers and community representatives**, each offering a different perspective on how safe water has changed everyday life. Their accounts converged on one idea: sustainability is strongest when communities are informed early and involved continuously.

The conversation gained particular warmth when **Smt. Aishvarya Singh, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**, addressed the villagers in **Nepali**, the local language of the district. Speaking in a language familiar to the community, she discussed water availability, source sustainability, operation and maintenance practices, and the importance of user contributions. The choice of language immediately put villagers at ease, encouraging open dialogue rather than formal responses.

Pacheykhani, with a population of **1,652 people across 389 households**, today has **100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connections** and is **Har Ghar Jal certified**. Water supply infrastructure, comprising multiple sedimentation tanks, reservoir tanks and distribution tanks, ensures regular availability across all **10 habitations** in the village.

At the centre of this is a **dedicated WASH Centre**, established in line with Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines. This centre functions as a local grievance

redressal hub, where residents can report concerns related to water quality, irregular supply, infrastructure damage or service delivery. Importantly, many issues are resolved **within the village itself**, without escalation to block or district levels. Minor repairs, quality concerns and supply disruptions are handled promptly by the VWSC, reinforcing confidence in local institutions.

One of the most striking aspects of the interaction was the focus on **schools and children**. With **five government schools, two private schools, nine ICDS centres and a dispensary** covered under the village's water supply network, WASH activities extend well beyond households. Awareness programmes conducted in schools teach children about handwashing, safe water use and sanitation-lessons that travel home with them. Teachers and Anganwadi workers spoke of improved hygiene practices, fewer illnesses and better attendance, underscoring how early sensitisation builds long-term behavioural change.

Pacheykhani has also invested in **protecting its water sources**. In convergence with MGNREGA, the community has undertaken plantation drives, stone-pitched protection works, cleanliness campaigns, and the construction of check dams and gully bunds.



Figure 6: Explaining on eGramSwaraj and the Meri Panchayat App | Source: NJJM



Jammu & Kashmir



Awneera, Shopian – Jammu & Kashmir



- Household tap water connections replacing long-distance water collection
- Establishment of a **water purification plant**
- Regular **laboratory-based water quality testing**
- Pipeline augmentation from **8 km to 32 km** for last-mile connectivity
- Assured water supply to **schools, anganwadi centres and health facilities**

In Awneera village of Shopian district, the community members, spoke in Urdu and Hindi about the significant changes brought about by Jal Jeevan Mission. Villagers recalled that prior to the Mission, women and children had to walk several kilometres to nearby *chashmas* and rivers to fetch water, which was often muddy and unsafe for consumption. Seasonal shortages and dependence on untreated sources were common, affecting household health and hygiene.

Under JJM, Awneera has been provided with a strengthened water supply system, including a water purification plant and regular laboratory-based water quality testing. Today, all **535 households** in the village have FHTCs, with clean drinking water supplied through an augmented pipeline network extending from **8 km to 32 km**, ensuring last-mile connectivity across all habitations. Schools, anganwadi centres and the health centre are now covered under assured water supply, addressing long-standing gaps in institutional access.

Community members also highlighted ongoing efforts towards source conservation, contamination prevention and long-term sustainability. Springs remain the primary source, supported by spring-shed development initiatives undertaken with NABARD support. Activities such as community-led *shramdaan*, social fencing, recharge structures and catchment protection works are being carried out, alongside capacity-building programmes for local stakeholders. Agriculture in the area, largely apple-based, is increasingly being aligned with water availability, with villagers actively monitoring water levels and usage patterns.

The District Magistrate emphasised that while schemes have been designed keeping people's needs at the centre, sustained focus on operation and maintenance is essential for long-term functionality. It was shared that water supply schemes worth approximately **₹6.7 crore** have benefited over **5,000 people** in the area. Looking ahead, the village outlined plans for grey water management structures in schools, convergence with MGNREGA with an expected funding of **₹84 lakh**, and the introduction of annual asset-wise audits to strengthen accountability and system performance.



Figure 7: Residents of Awneera join the Sujal Gram Samvad, bringing grassroots voices to the fore | Source: NJJM



Assam



Dakin Porbotia, Jorhat – Assam

- Monthly user charges: ₹50-₹100 per household
- Total revenue collected: ₹4.87 lakh
- O&M fund savings: ₹3.50 lakh
- 182 schemes with 100% tariff collection
- Funds used for O&M, minor repairs and honorariums



In Dakin Porbotia Gram Panchayat of Jorhat district, discussions were held in Assamese, focusing on the functionality and long-term sustainability of rural water supply schemes. Community members and officials highlighted that out of **221 water supply schemes handed over to communities, 182 schemes are recording regular and 100 per cent user tariff collection**, placing the district **first in Assam** in terms of tariff recovery. This strong financial discipline has enabled timely operation and maintenance across villages.

Regular monitoring of water supply systems is carried out through the **JJM Brain App**, including daily flow meter readings. **Jal Mitras** and **Swajal Mitras** play an active role in identifying and resolving minor disruptions at the village level, ensuring that small technical issues do not escalate into prolonged service interruptions. Monitoring data and progress reports are uploaded on the IMIS portal, strengthening transparency and accountability.

Institutional mechanisms were highlighted as a key strength of the Gram Panchayat. **Fortnightly District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) meetings, monthly Jal Baithaks, and utility-shifting committees** have been institutionalised to prevent damage to water infrastructure during road construction or other development works. These forums also provide structured platforms for grievance redressal, where community concerns and suggestions are discussed and addressed in a timely manner.

Villagers expressed satisfaction with the responsiveness of the system and the high level of community involvement in scheme management. The Gram Panchayat has emerged as a **model GP under the Jal Jeevan Mission**, demonstrating how women's leadership, youth participation and consistent tariff collection can collectively support sustainable and reliable drinking water services.



Figure 8-9: Community representatives from Jorhat sharing their experiences on JJM and its impact during the Second Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM



Uttarakhand



Kaluwala, Dehradun – Uttarakhand



- Water Quality Testing: Twice a year (pre- and post-monsoon) + as required
- Disinfection: Regular chlorination
- Infrastructure: OHT: 300 KL, Tubewell: 1, Pump house: 1
- Institutions Covered: 4 schools, 2 Anganwadi centres, 1 health centre, GP building & community toilet

In Kaluwala village of Dehradun district, interactions were held in Pahadi/Garhwali, with villagers highlighting how community-led monitoring has strengthened the reliability and safety of drinking water supply. Residents shared that trained women regularly conduct water quality testing twice a year, before and after the monsoon, and additional tests whenever required. Any concerns identified through testing are promptly escalated to district authorities for corrective action, ensuring that water quality is maintained consistently.

Minor repairs and leakages are addressed at the village level by the **VWSC**, with support from local plumbers and pump operators. This local response mechanism has helped prevent prolonged disruptions in supply. Jal Sakhis

and women members of self-help groups play an active role in scheme monitoring, timely reporting of issues, and collection of monthly user charges, strengthening accountability and community ownership.

The district administration highlighted its strong focus on source augmentation and long-term sustainability through convergence with **MGNREGA and rural development programmes**. The model of engaging Jal Sakhis and women SHG members in monitoring and user-charge collection is currently being piloted in three villages, including Kaluwala, and is proposed for scale-up across the district.

Community members, including elderly residents and schoolchildren, expressed appreciation for reliable access to clean drinking water. Schools and anganwadi centres now have assured water supply, regular water quality testing and improved sanitation facilities, benefiting more than **200 school-going girls**. The district shared that over **91 per cent of villages** in Dehradun have achieved **Har Ghar Jal** status, supported by regular monthly **District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)** meetings, dashboard-based monitoring and preparations for social audits beginning January, further strengthening transparency and accountability.

Sharing the positive impacts at the school level, Sonam Rawat, a Class 12 student, said that previously, the school did not have a proper drinking water system, which caused difficulties for the students. Now, clean and safe tap water is available at the school every day. She said that the availability of clean drinking water and adequate toilet facilities has greatly benefited the students, especially the girls, leading to improved health and a positive change in the learning environment.



Figure 10: Sonam Rawat, a Class 12 student from Dehradun sharing her points | Source: N.J.M.



Jharkhand



Aarani, Simdega – Jharkhand



- 💧 Time saved from water collection used for:
 - o Household management
 - o Agriculture
 - o Goat rearing
- 💧 Improved school attendance due to reliable water access
- 💧 Better hygiene practices among Anganwadi children

In Aarani village of Simdega district, interactions were held in the local language, **Sadri**, with community members describing how regular access to safe drinking water has changed everyday life. Villagers shared that **water quality testing is conducted every month** using Field Test Kits (FTKs), and the results are uploaded through mobile phones on the **Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS)**. Women from Self Help Groups and **Jal Sahiyas** play a central role in testing, reporting and awareness generation, ensuring that water safety remains a shared responsibility.

Community members highlighted that the time earlier spent fetching water from distant sources is now being used more productively. Women spoke of managing household supplies more efficiently, supporting

agricultural activities and engaging in **goat rearing** to supplement family income. A Class 8 student shared that regular school attendance has improved, as clean drinking water has been available in schools consistently for the past two years. Anganwadi workers noted that availability of safe water has supported better hygiene practices among children.

Jal Sahiyas and Anganwadi workers also spoke about **regular user charge collection**, awareness sessions and convergence for operation and maintenance of water supply schemes. All **399 households** in the village are contributing user charges, reflecting strong community ownership. At the district level, it was shared that more than **4,000 Single Village Schemes (SVSSs)** have been handed over to Panchayats, and **93 Panchayats** have been trained to manage these schemes, supported by regular monitoring and convergence with **MGNREGA**.

Being a hilly and **Scheduled Tribe-dominated district**, with nearly **70 per cent ST population**, Simdega faces seasonal challenges as water sources tend to dry up during lean periods. To address this, Aarani is actively promoting **source sustainability and water conservation measures**, including soak pits and recharge structures. Jal Sahiyas are closely involved in mobilising the community for these activities, reflecting strong **Jan Bhagidari** in safeguarding water systems for the long term.



Figure 11: Smt. Radhika Kumari, SHG member from Aarani speaks on livelihood opportunities made possible by the time saved from fetching water | Source: N.JJM



Figure 12: School children share how their school now have access to clean drinking water under JJM, that has led to improvement in attendance, especially of girls | Source: N.JJM



Maharashtra



Lohara, Chandrapur - Maharashtra



- Strong planning from design to execution
- Transparent expenditure discussions in Gram Sabha
- Digital payments improving convenience and compliance
- Women trained for water quality testing using FTKs
- Solar energy reducing electricity costs and improving sustainability

In Lohara village, interactions were held in Marathi, where community members shared that the success of the drinking water scheme stemmed from strong planning right from the design stage through execution. Villagers highlighted the active involvement of VWSC and the wider community, which has ensured that decisions related to infrastructure, operations and finances are well understood and collectively supported.

Timely collection of water tariffs emerged as a key factor in sustaining the system. A **monthly water tariff of ₹90 per household** has been fixed, with **QR-code-based digital payments** enabling residents to pay conveniently from home. **Jal Surakshaks and Gram Panchayat staff** conduct door-to-door visits to create awareness, facilitate payments and follow up on collections. Defaults beyond three months are addressed through notices, ensuring discipline while maintaining fairness.

Regular Gram Sabha and Jal Baithak meetings are held where expenditure details related to repairs, electricity bills, bleaching powder, water quality testing and routine maintenance are openly discussed. This practice has helped residents understand how user charges are utilised, reinforcing a strong sense of ownership. Regular water quality testing is conducted using Field Test Kits, with trained women sharing results with households and institutions, ensuring confidence in the safety of drinking water supplied to homes, schools and Anganwadi centres.

The district administration highlighted how peer learning and experience sharing among Gram Panchayats has strengthened implementation in Lohara. Community participation in activities such as overhead tank cleaning and *swachhata shramdaan* further demonstrates how local stewardship supports long-term sustainability.



Figure 13: Village representatives from Lohara, Chandrapur, join the Second Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM



Figure 14: The District Collector, Chandrapur (Maharashtra), participates in the Second Sujal Gram Samvad through a virtual interaction | Source: NJJM



Threaded through all these narratives was the unmistakable presence of women. As Jal Sakhis, committee members, quality monitors and communicators, women have emerged as custodians of both infrastructure and trust. Their leadership has ensured that systems respond to daily realities – timing of

supply, quality concerns, grievance redressal, rather than abstract plans.

As Jal Jeevan Mission moves deeper into its sustainability phase, this dialogue reaffirmed a powerful truth: lasting water security does not emerge from infrastructure alone. It grows from trust.

One voice, echoed across villages, captured it best: ***“We are not just recipients of water – we are partners in keeping it flowing.”***

In that quiet assertion lies the future of rural water governance in India.

What the Second Sujal Gram Samvad ultimately revealed was that sustainability is not a destination, but a process, built through conversation, accountability and shared responsibility. Pipes and pumps matter, but so do meetings, messages, records and relationships. When leaders speak in the language of the people, when communities are heard without filters, governance becomes human.

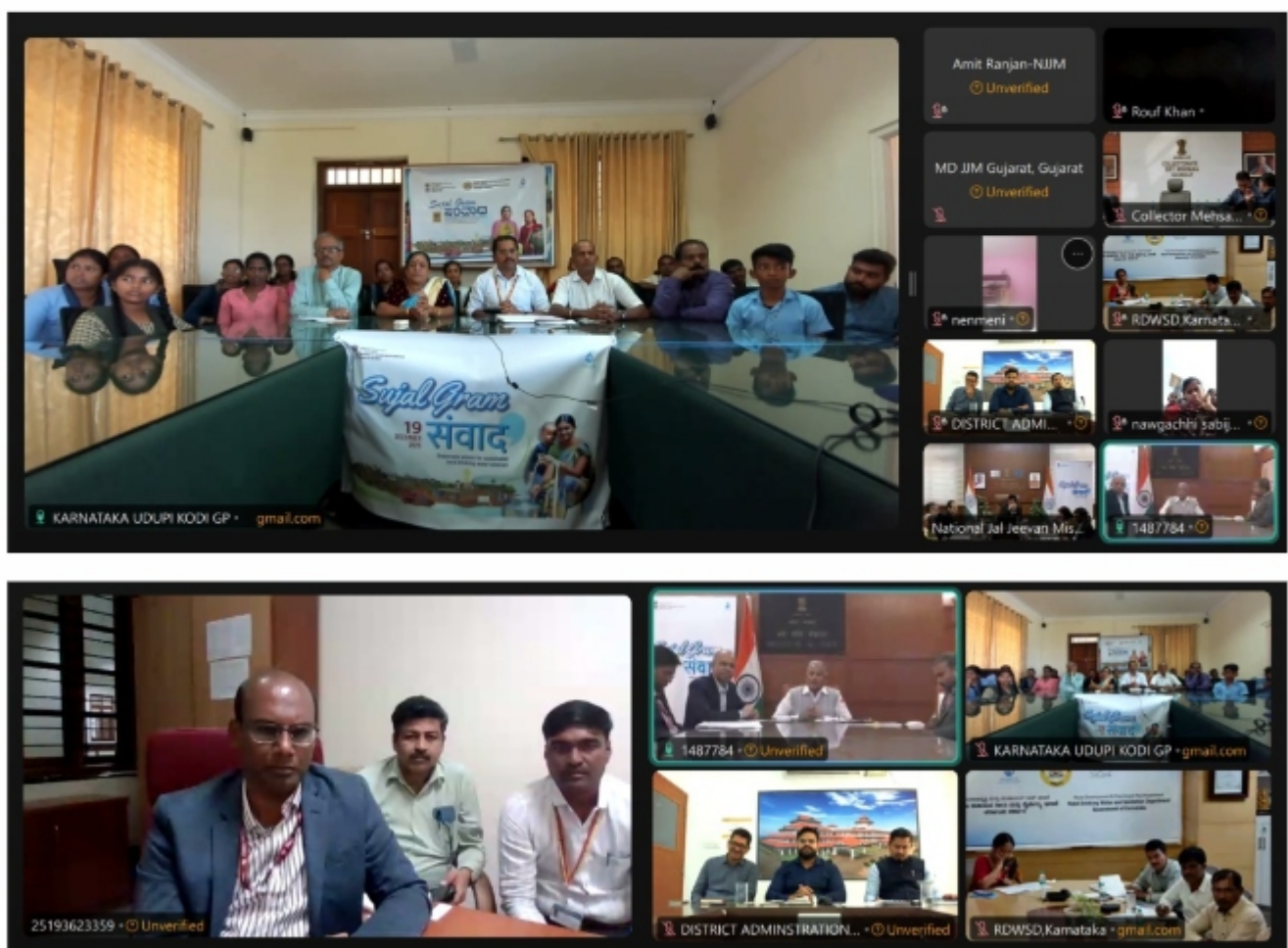


Figure 15-16: Digitally joint participants during second Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM

Jal Seva Aankalan: From Assets to Assurance – The New Paradigm of Rural Water Governance

– Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

On December 30, 2025, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) crossed an important threshold, not of pipes laid or pumps installed, or overhead tanks constructed but of people empowered to assess the water supply services. With the **national e-launch of Jal Seva Aankalan**, a Gram Panchayat-led, digital functionality assessment tool hosted on the JJM IMIS portal, service delivery and community ownership have moved to the centre stage of rural water governance.

The e-launch was done by esteemed **Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil** and joined by Ministers of State **Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary**.

The launch event webcasted nationwide and archived on the NIC Webcast platform. This was followed by a hands-on training session on how to do Jal Seva Aankalan on portal, marking the start of a new, participatory way of assessing how water reaches every rural household each day.

From Assets to Services: A Decisive Shift

The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, introduced Jal Seva Aankalan specifically to **strengthen service delivery** in Har Ghar Jal villages, moving beyond the earlier focus on infrastructure creation. By design,

When every drop counts, knowing how well water services are working is as important as having those services in the first place. This insight lay at the heart of Jal Seva Aankalan

the tool places Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) at the heart of **evaluating regularity, adequacy, quality, and sustainability of drinking water services**.



Figure T7: Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil launching the Jal Seva Aankalan in presence of Ministers of State Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, and Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary DDWS | Source: NJJM



This is a conscious course correction as tap connections matter only when they translate into reliable, safe, and daily drinking water in every home. By shifting assessment from external agencies to village institutions themselves, **Jal Seva Aankalan strengthens ownership, honesty, and faster problem-solving** because those closest to the system are best placed to judge its performance.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil e-launched the tool, flanked by Ministers of State Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, senior DDWS officials, state representatives, and a wide cross-section of Panchayat leadership. **More than 10,000** Har Ghar Jal Gram Panchayat representatives joined virtually. This is a signal that Jal Seva Aankalan is meant to be a grassroots movement as much as a governance instrument.

Address by MoJS & MoS: Jan Bhagidari at the Core

In his address, the Union Minister underscored that JJM's success rests on **four pillars—Political Will, People's Participation, Stakeholder Collaboration, and Optimal Resource Use** with Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) as the linchpin for sustaining Har Ghar Jal outcomes.

“

“Jal Jeevan Mission is for the people and for the villages, and the responsibility to keep it going rests with the community itself; this can be achieved only through Jan Bhagidari.”

- Shri C.R. Patil
Minister of Jal Shakti

”

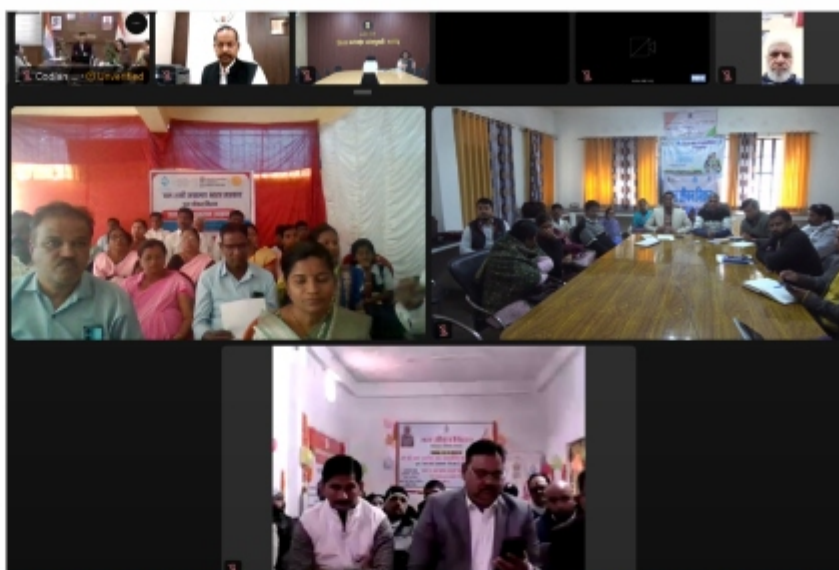


Figure 18: GP representatives interacting online during Jal Seva Aankalan e-launch | Source: N.JJM

This is more than rhetoric. Putting VWSCs and Gram Sabhas at the centre elevates routine water supply decisions from back-office checklists to community deliberations in public forums. It also democratises accountability: when village institutions assess their own systems, gaps get flagged earlier, and corrective action becomes a shared responsibility.

He stated that Jal Seva Aankalan empowers Gram Panchayats to become custodians of their own water supply systems and strengthens democratic decision-making through Gram Sabhas. The Hon'ble Minister further underscored that community participation and transparency are essential for the long-term sustainability of rural drinking water systems, and that the new tool will help identify service delivery gaps early and enable timely corrective action.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, also addressed the programme and highlighted the importance of *Jan Bhagidari* in sustaining Har Ghar Jal achievements and driving the transformation of villages. He noted

that Jal Seva Aankalan reflects the Government's trust in local institutions and will further strengthen village-level governance of drinking water services.

Voices from the Field: Interactions with Gram Panchayats

A key highlight of the event was the interaction between the Hon'ble Minister Shri C. R. Patil and Panchayat representatives from **Ghonashi Gram Panchayat** (Karad Block, Satara District, Maharashtra), **Gogathala Gram Panchayat** (Railmagra Block, Rajsamand District, Rajasthan), and **Bilhapur Gram Panchayat** (Amrodha Block, Kanpur Dehat District, Uttar Pradesh) in their local language.

The panchayat representatives of above said GPs spoke about routine water quality testing, user-charge collection, and the everyday challenges of operating rural water supply systems.

The GP representatives of **Ghonashi Gram Panchayat** (Karad Block, Satara District, Maharashtra) expressed that all the households, schools, AWCs of the GP has functional tap connec-





Figure 19: Representatives from Ghonashi GP, Maharashtra interacting during Jal Seva Aankalan e-launch | Source: NJJM

tions. For day-to-day operation they had a 4-member team (2 plumbers, 1 electrician, 1 fitter). The VWSC collects ₹ 800 yearly per tap connection from households.

The GP representatives of Gogathala Gram Panchayat (Railmagra Block, Rajsamand District, Rajasthan) shared that they collect ₹100 monthly user charge for O&M of the piped water supply system. Earlier, villagers, especially women, struggled with water scarcity, but now every household gets tap water under JJM. They also said all roads dug for pipeline work have been

restored, and there are no pending issues.

The GP representatives of Bilhapur Gram Panchayat (Amrodha Block, Kanpur Dehat District, Uttar Pradesh) told that before JJM, villagers drank water from open wells, leading to health issues like tooth and bone problems. Now, with tap water, health has improved. They collect ₹50 monthly user charge per house for O&M.

These voices reinforce a core principle of JJM i.e service delivery is a living process, best understood and stewarded by those closest to it.



Figure 20: Representatives from Gogathala GP, Rajasthan interacting during Jal Seva Aankalan e-launch | Source: NJJM

Advice from Senior Leadership of DDWS

Senior leadership also clarified how accuracy and credibility will be safeguarded. **Shri Ashok K. K. Meena**, Secretary, DDWS, emphasized that Jal Seva Aankalan is **neither an inspection nor an external audit**, but a **structured, community-led self-review process** that enables villages to assess how effectively their piped water supply systems are functioning. He emphasised that the initiative places communities, Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees at the centre of evaluating service delivery parameters such as **regularity, adequacy, quality and system maintenance, with the findings deliberated and owned by the Gram Sabha**.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, stressed that the success of Jal Seva Aankalan depends on the **accuracy and credibility of the data provided by Gram Panchayats**. Since these assessments will be **publicly visible at the national level**, every input must be filled correctly and responsibly. He explained that Zila Panchayats have a crucial facilitative role in planning and coordination at the district level, while systematic training at the block level especially for Panchayat Secretaries is essential to ensure proper data entry. Shri Soan further emphasized that the **Gram Sabha is the final forum for collective verification and ownership**, where the entire community deliberates and endorses the assessment, ensuring its authenticity and transparency.

The programme concluded on a gracious note with a **vote of thanks by Smt. Swati Meena Naik**, Joint Secretary, NJJM, who acknowledged the efforts of all participants and emphasized the **collective commit-**

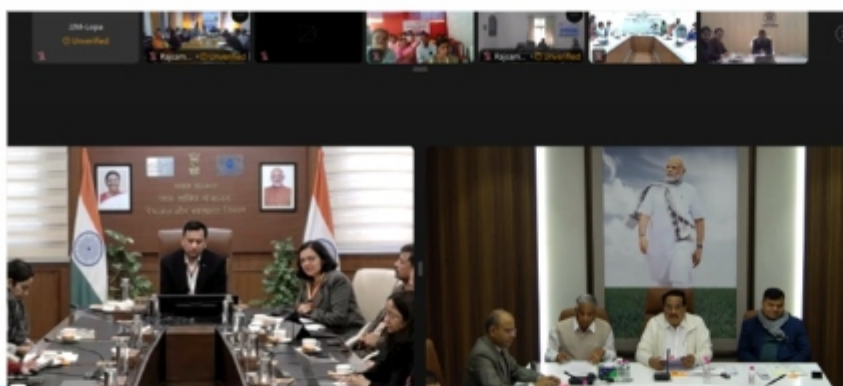


Figure 21: MoJS, MoS, senior officials from DWS & NJJM during Jal Seva Aankalan e-launch | Source: NJJM

ment required to make Jal Seva Aankalan a success across every Gram Panchayat.

Training on Jal Seva Aankalan

Immediately after the e-launch, Panchayat representatives participated in a training session on the Jal Seva Aankalan tool, led by Smt. Ankita Chakravarty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM.

i. What Jal Seva Aankalan Actually Does

Jal Seva Aankalan is a structured, community-owned self-assessment that replaces infrequent external surveys with continuous local review. The tool guides villages to evaluate five service parameters:

- Regularity and adequacy of water supply
- Drinking water quality
- Operation and maintenance (O&M)
- Source sustainability

ii. The Assessment Process

The process begins with guided discussions involving VWSC members, the Panchayat Secretary, operators, and a representative cross-section of users, especially women and vulnerable groups. The findings are then placed before the Gram Sabha for open deliberation. Upon endorsement through a Gram Sabha resolution, the assessment is uploaded digitally on the JJM

Panchayat Dashboard and publicly disclosed via platforms like eGramSwaraj and the Meri Panchayat App.

A 30-day citizen feedback window follows before finalisation, ensuring transparency, validation, and community trust.

iii. A Practical Guide for Gram Panchayats and VWSCs

For Gram Panchayats preparing for their first Jal Seva Aankalan, the process is clear and people-centred:

- Convene an inclusive group with VWSC members, Panchayat officials, operators, women, and vulnerable households
- Review daily supply, adequacy, and seasonal variations
- Examine water quality testing protocols and response mechanisms
- Assess O&M systems, cost recovery, and local innovations
- Evaluate source sustainability and recharge measures
- Deliberate findings in the Gram Sabha and approve through resolution
- Upload, disclose, invite feedback, and respond meaningfully

iv. Expected Outcomes

Jal Seva Aankalan is expected to:

- Anchor drinking water service assessment in Gram Sabha deliberations
- Enable early identification of operational, quality and sustainability challenges
- Improve transparency through public disclosure of service performance
- Support evidence-based district and state-level planning
- Reinforce community stewardship of rural water supply systems

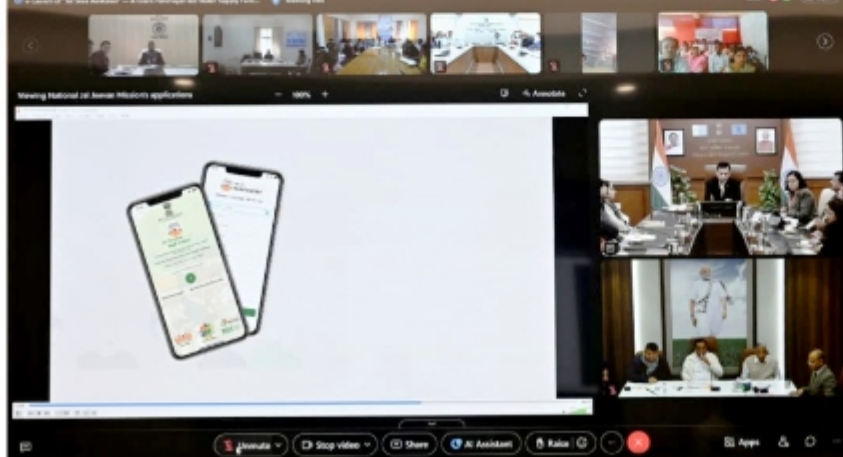


Figure 22: Explaining on eGramSwaraj and the Meri Panchayat App | Source: NJJM



All Har Ghar Jal Gram Panchayats are expected to complete Jal Seva Aankalan by January 26, 2026, a timeline that reflects both urgency and national commitment.

Conclusion

Jal Jeevan Mission began as a promise to bring tap water to every rural home. With Jal Seva Aankalan, that promise matures into a daily practice of measuring, learning, and improving together. Pipes and pumps may deliver water while People sustain services.

By placing villages at the helm, Jal Seva Aankalan reaffirms a simple truth: lasting water security is built not only through engineering, but through empowered institutions and informed communities.

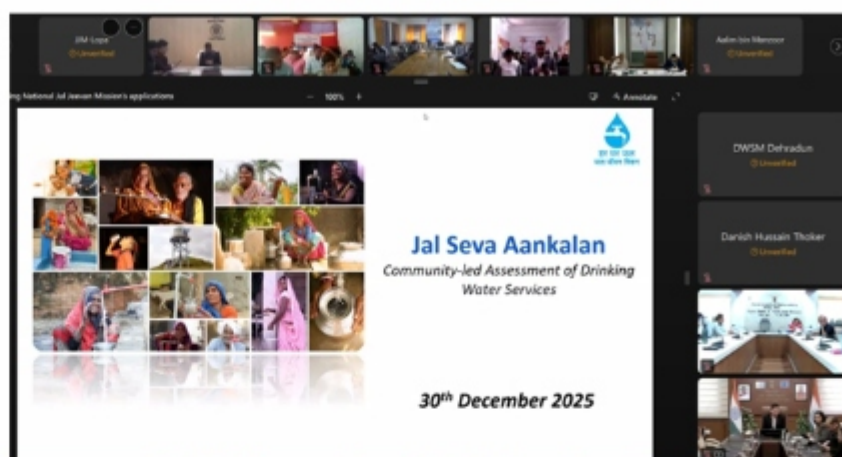


Figure 23: Presentation on Jal Seva Aankalan | Source: NJJM

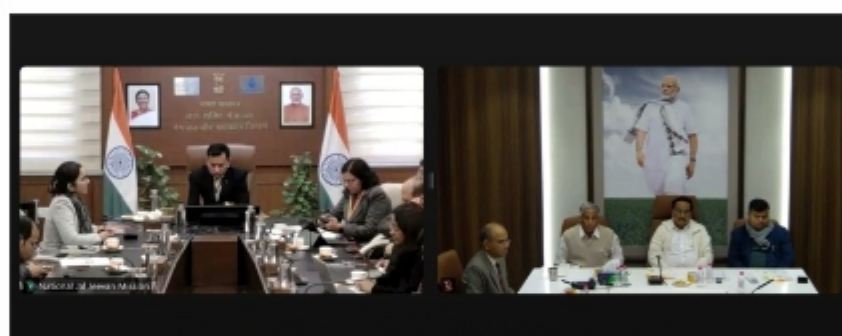


Figure 24: Launching of Jal Seva Aankalan | Source: NJJM



Figure 25: Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil, Minister of State, Shri V. Somanna, Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary and Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary DWS during launching of Jal Seva Aankalan | Source: NJJM



Jal Arpan: From Infrastructure to Stewardship

Kundibeh (Madhya Pradesh) and Vantangia (Gorakhpur) Became India's Flagship Models for Community-Owned Rural Water Supply Schemes by Celebrating Jal Arpan

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

A New Chapter in Rural Water Governance

This December, a new chapter in India's rural water journey was scripted, not in policy drafts or bureaucratic dashboards, but in village squares, along dusty lanes, around singing crowds and solemn vows. The heart of this chapter is **Jal Arpan** — the ritual, responsibility and renewal that marks the moment rural drinking water systems **shift from being built for villages to being owned by the people who live there.**

Jal Arpan is not a separate scheme but a **community-ownership milestone** in the lifecycle of rural water supply under JJM. On **Jal Arpan Diwas**, completed piped water schemes are formally handed over to **Gram Panchayats, VWSCs and as a whole the village community**, with structured commissioning protocols. It is, in essence, the moment a village declares, **"This is our water supply system"** and pledges to sustain it for the next decade and beyond.

Two villages became landmarks not just of tap connection counts but of community commitment. They celebrated Jal Arpan Diwas, formally receiving their systems into the custodianship of Gram Panchayats and VWSCs, accepting not just water but responsibility. In late **December 2025**, two places crystallized this vision into moving reality:



Figure 26: Jal Arpan Diwas Celebration in Kundibeh, Madhya Pradesh | Source: Jal Nigam MP

• **Kundibeh, Rajgarh district, Madhya Pradesh:** India's first Jal Arpan village where households are assured **24x7 tap-water supply** and the Gram Panchayat is entrusted with stewardship.

• **Jungal Tikonia No. 3, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh:** celebrated as UP's first and India's second Jal Arpan village. The **Vantangia community** celebrated Jal Arpan with much enthusiasm with a newly overhead tank that has a storage capacity of approximately 1.75 lakh litres, ensuring a steady supply of clean drinking water to households.

In both Kundibeh and Jungal Tikonia No. 3, this was not a technical hand-over hidden in a district office. It was a happening event with music, speeches, local performances, ceremonial kalash offerings,

children's prabhat pheris and vows of water stewardship.

These celebrations illuminate how Jal Arpan reframes rural water from a "utility delivered to villages" to a **public good owned by villages**.

The Policy Pivot: From Pipes to People

In November–December 2025, DDWS emphasized a decisive pivot: rural water governance must move from **construction milestones to daily water delivery and sustainability**, backed by standardized **Commissioning and Handing-Over** Protocols. These protocols include pressure and quality testing, a minimum **15 to 30-day trial run**, documentation, and a formal handover marked as **Jal Arpan Diwas** with community **ownership and empowerment** at the center.

The **Jal Arpan** ceremony is, therefore, more than symbolism. It seals a contract of care between the state and villagers. It signals that:

- The infrastructure now **belongs to the village**;
- The Panchayat/VWSC will handle **O&M**, water quality surveillance, grievance redressal, and user charge discipline;
- The executing/implementing department remains committed to **support**, monitoring, and training to keep the system robust and resilient.

This approach aligns with JJM's founding ethos, **decentralized, demand-driven, community-managed systems** and the Har Ghar Jal emphasis on quality (BIS-compliant standards), continuity (55 lpcd minimum service levels), and affordability.



Figure 27: Jal Sapath by Vantangia community of Jungal Tikonia No. 3, Gorakhpur | Source: UP Jal Nigam



Jal Arpan Diwas in Kundibeh, Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh



Figure 28: Jal Shringar with Rangoli by Girls Student | Source: MP Jal Nigam



On 23rd December 2025, the Kundibeh felt particularly festive. The celebration started before few days, when the entire village community started planning to celebrate country's first Jal Arpan Diwas. Villagers gathered on the green grounds. The day, organized under the Jal Jeevan Mission banner, brought together local leaders, officials from the MP Jal Nigam, the Collector's office and scores of residents eager to claim what they described as "the day we truly became water owners."

The Days Before Jal Arpan: Nearly 7 to 10 days before, the village began its preparations. There was excitement, but also seriousness - an understanding that this was not merely an inauguration, but a historic transfer of responsibility. Local residents, Panchayat members, and the VWSC met repeatedly to plan every detail.

Invitations were extended telephonically to senior officials, including the Additional Secretary & Mission Director, DDWS and formal invitation to the local Member of Parliament, **Shri Rodmal Nagar**, for the formal scheme handover.

Eve of Jal Arpan Diwas: villagers undertook a unique "**Jal Walk (transit walk)**" tracing the journey of water from the source to every tap connection. Alongside this, the Panchayat and VWSC assessed their own readiness on availability of operation and maintenance funds, manpower for routine repairs and monitoring, updating of passbooks, records, and registers, and clear understanding of roles in daily water management.

As the technical preparations progressed, the cultural soul of Kundibeh came alive. Homes were traditionally decorated, floors and walls cleaned and adorned with cow-dung plaster, a symbol of purity and prosperity in villages. **Rangolis**



Figure 28: A future generation proudly joined Prabhat Pheri | Source: Jal Nigam MP

bloomed at doorsteps, each pattern quietly celebrating the arrival of water.

School children were mobilized, poem and essay competitions on water were organised, sparking conversations about conservation, dignity, and responsibility among the youngest custodians of the future.

Local artists rehearsed Lok Sangeet, ensuring that the village's voice rooted in its soil and language would shape the celebration.

On the evening before Jal Arpan Diwas, the village gathered for a "**Jal Chaupal**" an open community

dialogue under the stars. The oldest woman of the village Smt. Ratan Bai was invited to speak. With quiet strength, she narrated her life story - when she was married into Kundibeh decades ago, water scarcity defined every waking hour. Fetching water from distant sources consumed her days. There was little time for rest, for self-care, or even for family. Then she spoke of the present - of **taps flowing 24x7**, of dignity restored, of time reclaimed. Her voice trembled, but her pride was unmistakable. For many, it was the first time the meaning of Jal Arpan went beyond pipes and tanks.



The Jal Arpan Day: Dawn on 23 December broke with energy and purpose. The day began with a **Jal Walk**—Prabhat Pheri, where every household participated, joined by schoolchildren carrying water messages and slogans.

When the chief guest, **Shri Rodmal Nagar, MP** and local MLA arrived, the village was already in celebration mode. One of the most moving moments was **Jal Bandhan**—where villagers tied sacred threads to water assets - the overhead tank, valves, and even household taps. It was a quiet but powerful declaration that infrastructure had become family.

Local artists performed **Jal Vandhana**—a specially composed water song sung in the local language. The song spoke of water as life, duty, and inheritance, binding culture to conservation.

“

That evening concluded with folk dance and music, and a heartfelt address by the Sarpanch, who reminded the community that

“this is not the government's water anymore. This is our asset. We are fortunate to be the first village in the country to receive Jal Arpan and with that comes responsibility.”

”

The Chief guest inaugurated the Jal Arpan Diwas and Har Ghar Jal plaques, formally handed over the water supply scheme to the Gram Panchayat and VWSC, and recognised community members, workers, and

frontline functionaries who contributed to the scheme's success.

Collectively everyone – the guests, VWSC, panchayat functionaries, and whole community took **Jal Sankalp**—The Water Pledge. After this the Sarpanch **declared the GP as Har Ghar Jal**, and it has

The moment was not just rushed with over 1000 crowd. Documents were read, roles clarified, and responsibilities acknowledged underscoring that Jal Arpan is not a governance milestone, but a symbolic gesture by the community to celebrate, to own, to commit responsible for the drinking water assets.

Kundibeh's Jal Arpan stands out not only because it was India's first, but because of how deeply the village prepared itself technically, culturally, emotionally, and institutionally.



Figure 30: Chief guest, Shri Rodmal Nagar, MP Rajgarh addressing in Jal Arpan Diwas | Source: Jal Nigam MP

Glimpses of Jal Arpan Diwas in Kundibeh, Rajgarh District , Madhya Pradesh





Media Wall - Jal Arpan Diwas in Kundibeh, Rajgarh District , Madhya Pradesh



Jal Arpan Diwas in Jungal Tikonia No.3, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh



Figure 31: Shri Ravi Kishan, MP Gorakhpur drinking water from tap during Jal Arpan Diwas | Source: UP Jal Nigam



Three days later, on 26th December 2025, the scene shifted north, to the dense Sal Forests and winding lanes of Jungal Tikononia No. 3, popularly known as Vantangia, in Gorakhpur.

Here, the story carried an added depth. For decades, Vantangia had lived on the margins—marked by neglect, prolonged struggles for recognition, and limited access to basic services. Only in recent years was the village granted full administrative status, along with the civic rights that accompany such recognition.

Against this backdrop, Jal Arpan Diwas was not approached as a procedural event, but as a moment of long-awaited affirmation. For a community that had remained in the shadows of development for generations, Jal Arpan symbolised arrival—into visibility, dignity, and full participation in public life.

Preparation for Jal Arpan: it began nearly a week before the main event day. The Gram Panchayat and VWSC held meetings and called district and block officials to explain what Jal Arpan truly meant: a transfer of ownership, responsibility, and trust. Special efforts were made to ensure that every household—men, women, elders, and youth understood that the village would now be the custodian of its own drinking water system.

Invitations were extended to state and district officials, Jal Nigam engineers and officials, and elected representatives viz. MP & MLAs. A formal invitation card was also sent to AS&MD, NJJM and NJJM officials to attend Jal Arpan Diwas.

In the days leading up to Jal Arpan, villagers were taken on **Jal Walk (transect walk)** through the Single Village Scheme (SVS) in detail. Engineers and Panchayat representa-

आमंत्रण पत्र

जल जीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत ग्राम जंगल तिनकोनिया नं०-३
में निर्मित ग्रामीण पेयजल योजना के

“जल अर्पण दिवस समारोह”

में आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं

मुख्य अतिथि :- श्री रवि किशन शुक्ला,
मा० सासंद (गोरखपुर)

विशिष्ट अतिथि:- श्री महेन्द्र पाल सिंह, मा० विधायक, पिपराइच
श्री विपिन सिंह, मा० विधायक, गोरखपुर ग्रामीण

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति :- श्री कमल किशोर सोन,
ए०एस०,एम०डी०, जल जीवन मिशन,
भारत सरकार
डा० राजशेखर,
प्रबन्ध निदेशक, उ०प्र० जल निगम (ग्रामीण)
श्री दीपक मीणा,
जिलाधिकारी, गोरखपुर, उ०प्र०
श्री प्रभाष कुमार,
अधिसासी निदेशक, राज्य पेयजल एवं
स्वच्छता मिशन, उ०प्र०

दिनांक :- 26.12.2025 समय :- 11:00 प्रातः बजे
स्थान :- ग्राम जंगल तिनकोनिया नं०-३, विकास खण्ड चरगावों

निवेदक -

जिलाधिकारी/अध्यक्ष जिला पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति गोरखपुर	ग्रामप्रधान/अध्यक्ष ग्राम पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता समिति जंगल तिनकोनिया नं०-३, गोरखपुर
--	--

Figure : Invitation card for Jal Arpan by Sarpanch, Jungal Tikononia No.3 | Source: Jal Nigam, UP

tives explained the journey of water from the source to the 1.75 lakh-litre overhead tank, and onward through distribution lines to household taps. This was not symbolic. It was practical learning. As-is Drawing of water supply system prepared and explained to all by technical people.

Community discussions focused on storage and pressure management, day-to-day operation and maintenance responsibilities, fund availability and record-keeping, and the role of trained community members in water quality surveillance.

This preparatory phase ensured that the system being handed over was not an abstract asset, but a well-understood public utility.

As technical readiness took shape, the village turned to culture in its own local voice. Local artists prepared folk songs and performances in Bhojpuri, ensuring that messages of water conservation, cleanliness, and shared responsibility resonated deeply. Schoolteachers mobilised children for awareness activities.

Homes and lanes were cleaned, gathering spaces prepared, and the





Figure 32: Jal Shringar by women at site OHT during Jal Arpan Diwas | Source: Jal Nigam UP

entire village readied itself for a day that would blend governance with culture.

Eve of Jal Arpan: on the previous day to Jal Arpan Diwas, an announcement by the cultural team was made calling all community members to attend the Jal Arpan as it's a proud moment for them. The village gathered for a community interaction. Local leaders reminded everyone that Jal Arpan was not the end of the journey. They cleaned the village path, the ceremony place, they decorated the entire village. Women and girls did **Jal Shringar**, they decorated the surroundings of taps, scheme site with rangoli.

The evening rehearsals held with Bhojpuri folk music, binding collective memory with future responsibility for water. Notably community celebrated **Jal Diwali**, with lighting vibrant *dia* (lamp), and symbolic rituals, transforming the handover of tap-water systems into a festival of dignity and empowerment. For residents of Vantangia, this was more than a ceremony it was a joyful affirmation of inclusion and progress after decades of neglect.

The Jal Arpan Day: 26 December 2025 unfolds the real ceremony. Jal Arpan Diwas began at dawn with a **Jal**

Walk (Prabhat Pheri), led by school-children, teachers, women, and elders. Carrying messages of water conservation and cleanliness, the procession moved through every lane of the village, turning participation into a shared declaration.

The ceremony featured **Gorakhpur MP Shri Ravindra Kishan Shukla** popularly known as Ravi Kishan as Chief Guest, **Shri Mahendra Pal Singh, MLA Pipraich, Shri Bipin Singh, MLA Gorakhpur Rural, and Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD, NJJM.**

Following the Prabhat Pheri, the village welcomed Chief Guest Ravi Kishan and other guests. Speaking extensively in Bhojpuri, he interacted directly with villagers asking about: Regularity of water supply, Ease of access through household taps, and Changes in daily life since the system became operational.

A defining moment of the visit was the interaction with women trained in water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs). The women confidently demonstrated: Sample collection, Testing procedures, and Interpretation of results. The MP observed the process closely, appreciated their role, and high-

lighted how women's participation ensures safety, vigilance, and sustainability in rural water supply systems. This interaction visibly elevated the status of community-led water governance, and even **drank water directly from a tap** to attest to quality—gestures designed to turn infrastructure into **people-centered confidence**.

The guests then moved to the SVS site, where the MP **inspected system components** and interacted with technical staff and Panchayat representatives. In a powerful symbolic gesture, he climbed the overhead tank, waved the national flag, and tied a sacred thread -**Jal Bandhan** to the water asset signifying protection, care, and collective responsibility. This moment transformed the overhead tank from a structure into a symbol of national commitment and local pride. The adolescent schoolgirls, women and other community members also tied sacred thread to taps and other water supply assets. The guests did **Brukshya Ropan-tree plantation** at the premises of the SVS.

At the celebration field local artists performed **Jal Vandana** in Bhojpuri, weaving stories of struggle, relief, and responsibility. The cultural performances ensured that the message of Jal Arpan reached every heart, irrespective of literacy or age.

The chief guest then inaugurated the **Jal Arpan Diwas and Har Ghar Jal plaques**, symbolically **handed over a "jal kalash"** to VWSC and formally **handed over the drinking water supply scheme** to the Gram Panchayat and VWSC declaring Vantangia as Uttar Pradesh's first and India's second Jal Arpan village.

The ceremony witnessed a **Jal Shapath**, taken collectively by villagers, Panchayat members, guests and officials. Spoken aloud in Bhojpuri, the pledge committed the



Figure 33: Chief guest, Shri Ravi Kishan, MP Gorakhpur, other guests, Sarpanch on OHT during Jal Arpan Diwas | Source: Jal Nigam UP

contributed were publicly **acknowledged and felicitated**. The day was witnessed a crowd of around 2000 community members of all streams and age group.

The conversational tone and use of the local language Bhojpuri by the Chief Guest Shri Ravi Kishan created instant connection, reinforcing that Jal Arpan was about people, not podiums.

Vantangia's Jal Arpan demonstrates how local language, culture, and participation can turn a technical handover into a deeply owned social compact. The presence of the MP, his Bhojpuri interactions, women-led water quality testing, and symbolic acts at the OHT anchored governance in lived reality.

This is what Jal Arpan looks like when infrastructure meets stewardship- and when a village receives water not just with celebration, but with care.

community to: Responsible use of water, Protect the water sources, Collective care of water supply infrastructure, Uphold the system for

future generations Equitable access for all households, and Protection of the system for future generations. Five Community members who had



आज इ नल-जल योजना सरकार के ना, गाँव के हो गइल बा।
अगर हर घर महिना के सौ रुपया देई, त इ रुपिया से जे बहिन लोग पानी के जाँच करतारे, जे भाई लोग पानी के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के रखरखाव करतारे, उनकर मेहनताना दिहल जा सकेला। आ पानी के सेवा बिना रुकल चलत रही।
जब माई-बहिन खुद पानी जाँचत बाड़ी, त समझ लीजिए कि इ योजना सुरक्षित हाथन में बा।
पानी बचाइब, संभालब आ अगली पीढ़ी खातिर सहेज के रखब - यही असली जल अर्पण ह।

Emotionally appealed by
Shri Ravi Kishan,
MP-Gorakhpur in Jal Arpan Diwas at
Jungal Tikonia No. 3, Gorakhpur

**Media Wall - Jal Arpan Diwas in Jungal Tikonia No. 3,
Gorakhpur District, Uttar Pradesh**



Strengthening Rural Water Governance Through Grassroot's Leadership: Reflections from the 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

India's journey towards universal access to safe and adequate drinking water is as much a story of engineering and infrastructure as it is of leadership, trust and collective community ownership. As Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) moves steadily from coverage expansion to service sustainability, the role of district administrations has become increasingly central. This evolving phase of the Mission formed the core of discussions at the 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti on 11th December 2025.

The virtual Samvad brought together District Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, Mission Directors, State Mission teams and senior officials from across the country on a common platform to reflect, learn and recalibrate priorities for strengthening Har Ghar Jal outcomes. The Peyjal Samvad has emerged as a learning forum where district leadership shares experiences, challenges and solutions rooted in real field conditions.

Districts as the Nerve Centre of Jal Jeevan Mission

Chairing the session, **Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS**, set the tone by recognising the dedication of district teams who have translated national intent into tangible household-level outcomes. He said that districts operate at the intersec-



Figure 34: Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS setting the context of 4th Peyjal samvad | Source: NJJM

tion of policy, technology, people and it is this unique positioning that makes them the backbone of JJM implementation.

With many States approaching saturation, the **Mission's emphasis is now firmly on service delivery, reliability and sustainability**. He further emphasised, **this transition demands sharper district-level governance, robust monitoring and deeper community engagement**.

Three Priorities for the Next Phase of the Mission

Outlining a clear roadmap for districts, Secretary, DDWS highlighted **three priority areas** that must guide district action in the coming months.

First, he underscored the importance of **regular District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) review meetings**. He stressed, these forums are critical for taking stock of rural drinking water supply status, sanitation progress, Har Ghar Jal declarations, Model Village development, operational sustainability and grievance redressal. Timely documentation and uploading of meeting minutes, he added, ensure accountability and continuity of action.

Second, referring to the launch of **Sujalam Bharat App** by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, he highlighted the strategic value of **Sujalam Bharat – Sujal Gaon IDs** under the Sujalam Bharat Database. These unique identifiers, he noted, are powerful

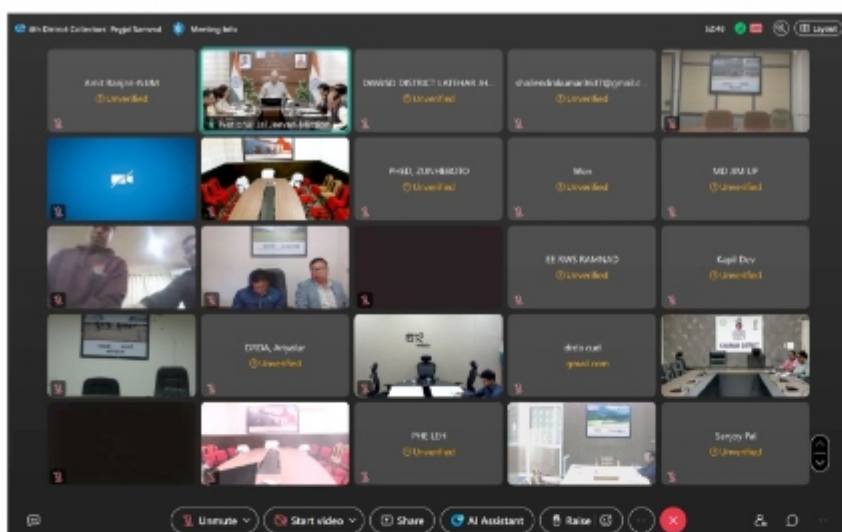


Figure 35: Participants of 4th Peyjal samvad | Source: NJJM

enablers for accurate scheme mapping, transparent asset management and data-driven decision-making helping districts move from reactive troubleshooting to proactive service management.

Third, he urged districts to actively adopt and internalise the guidance laid out in the handbook **“Community Managed Piped Water Systems in Rural India – Jan Bhagidari se Har Ghar Jal.”** The handbook, he explained, provides a structured framework for readiness protocols, commissioning-to-handover processes and, most importantly, empowerment of VWSCs. As infrastructure creation gives way to long-term operations and maintenance (O&M), such guidance becomes indispensable.

Jal Arpan Diwas: From Assets to Ownership

Welcoming the participants, Smt. Ankita Chakraborty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM, highlighted that the central theme of the 4th Peyjal Samvad is **Jal Arpan Diwas**—a milestone in the Mission's philosophy of Jan Bhagidari. She emphasised that Jal Arpan is not a ceremonial add-on, but a conscious effort to reconnect communities with their water assets.

She further added, Jal Arpan stands as a declaration from the Government that village water supply systems belong to the community. It symbolises trust in local institutions and affirms that sustainable service delivery is possible only when communities are informed, prepared and empowered.

A detailed presentation on Jal Arpan Diwas was delivered by **Shri Y. K. Singh, Director, NJJM**, who explained the concept, process and significance

of this initiative. Jal Arpan Diwas marks the formal transition from **government-led construction to community-led management** of rural water supply systems after technical readiness, trial runs and community preparedness are ensured.

Typically organised at village water assets such as pump houses, overhead tanks or distribution points, Jal Arpan ceremonies bring together Gram Panchayats, VWSCs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth groups and villagers. Activities such as Jal Chaupal, cultural rituals, symbolic handover of assets, signing of records and reading of community commitments help embed a sense of shared responsibility.

The presentation also highlighted preparedness requirements including O&M plans, asset registers, as-built drawings, water-quality testing and IEC activities without which handover risks becoming symbolic rather than substantive. Suggested celebration formats such as Jal Walk, Jal Bandhan, Jal Vandana, Jal Sankalp and recognition of community volunteers were showcased as ways to strengthen social ownership.

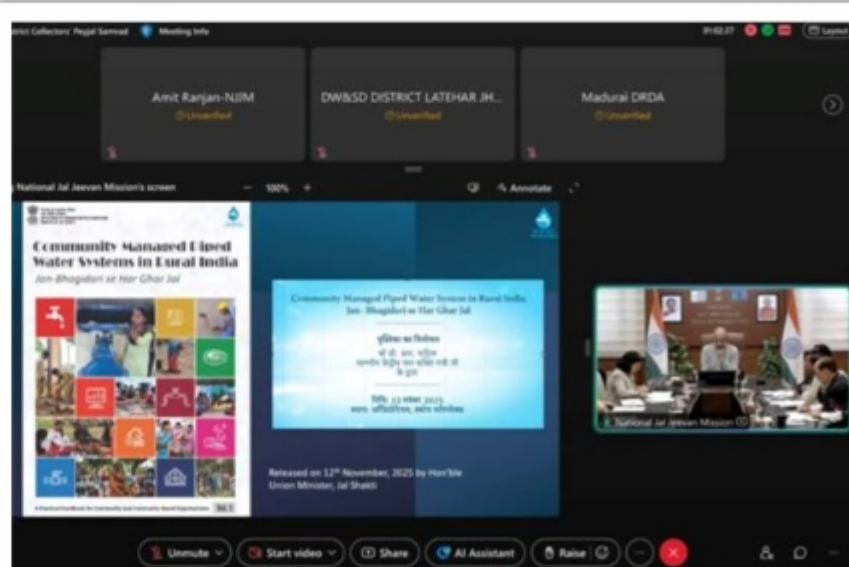


Figure 36: Presentation on Jal Arpan in 4th Peyjal Samvad | Source: NJJM

Presentations by DC/DMs: Learning from District Experiences Across India

A defining feature of the Peyjal Samvad platform is peer learning. District presentations during the session offered a rich tapestry of approaches shaped by geography, socio-economic context and administrative innovation.

Shri Rangnamei Rang Peter, Deputy Commissioner, Kamjong district in Manipur showcased strong community engagement under JJM, highlighting how VWSCs are actively conducting water-quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs). Regular IEC and awareness programmes, Har Ghar Jal village declarations and instances of villagers coming together to restore damaged pipelines illustrated how community participation directly strengthens service continuity.

From **Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh**, **Shri Priyank Mishra, Collector & District Magistrate**, presented an integrated governance model combining infrastructure, technology and citizen engagement. He outlined the progress of major multi-village schemes such as Rajond, Mann Dam, Bagh, Rignod, Upper Narmada, Mahi and Lower Narmada, alongside their sanctioned costs and physical progress. Dhar's use of the Panchayat Darpan Portal for bulk-water billing, GIS-based asset mapping on the PM Gati Shakti platform and GIS-enabled grievance redressal demonstrated how digital tools can enhance transparency and responsiveness. Notably, improved water access has also contributed to better attendance of girls in schools—an outcome that reflects the Mission's wider social impact.

Haridwar district in Uttarakhand, represented by **Shri Mayur Dixit, District Magistrate**, shared compre-



Figure 37: Presentation by Shri Rangnamei Rang Peter, Deputy Commissioner, Kamjong district, Manipur | Source: NJJM



Figure 38: Presentation by Shri Priyank Mishra, Collector & District Magistrate, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh | Source: NJJM

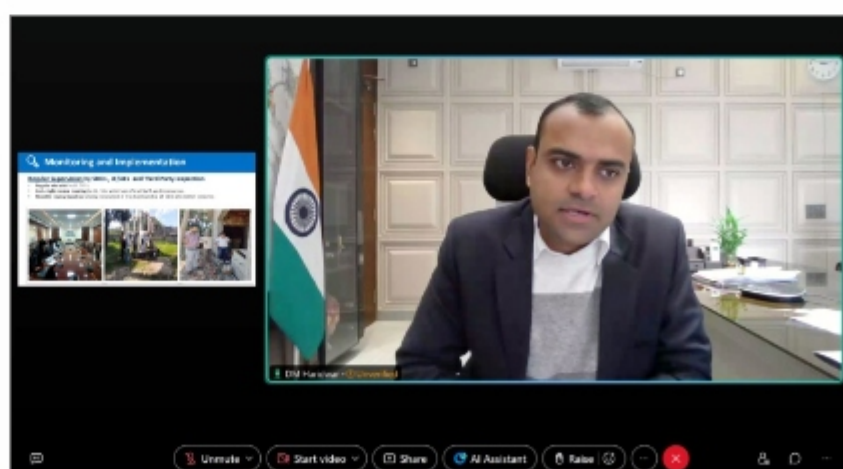


Figure 39: Presentation by Shri Mayur Dixit, District Magistrate, Haridwar district, Uttarakhand | Source: NJJM



Figure 40: Presentation by Shri Gangadhara Swamy G.M., Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere district, Karnataka | Source: NJJM



Figure 41: Presentation by Shri Utkarsh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner, Latehar district, Jharkhand | Source: NJJM

hensive data on project completion, quality assurance and O&M arrangements. With 375 projects undertaken and a significant number already completed, the district has institutionalised regular site inspections, third-party quality checks and SHG involvement in FTK testing. Rainwater recharge interventions and village-level user charge collection mechanisms have further strengthened sustainability, with tangible outcomes such as reduced water-borne diseases.

From Davanagere district in Karnataka, Shri Gangadhara Swamy

G.M., Deputy Commissioner, presented the district's pioneering 24x7 rural water supply initiative. Through its Mission-100 approach—anchored in feasibility studies, baseline surveys and consumption analysis—the district has already declared 57 villages as 24x7 water supply villages. Continuous pressurised supply has led to reduced non-revenue water, lower pumping hours, decreased electricity expenditure and improved water quality. The district also reported broader public health benefits, including a marked reduction in dengue cases and water contamination incidents.

Latehar district in Jharkhand, presented by Shri Utkarsh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner, highlighted systematic handover of completed schemes to VWSCs through Gram Sabha processes. Preparation of asset registers, clarification of O&M roles, tariff awareness and the strengthening of community ownership were key focus areas. The district also showcased the pivotal role of Jal Sahiyas—trained women community workers, who support VWSCs in O&M and water-quality testing, with over 4,800 tests conducted in the current year. A robust grievance redressal system, with the majority of complaints resolved promptly, reflected improved service responsiveness.

Together, these district experiences underlined that while challenges vary, the principles of strong leadership, community engagement and transparency remain universal.

From Coverage to Sustainability: The Road Ahead

In his concluding remarks, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, emphasised that DDWS is systematically documenting the learnings from each District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad in the monthly newsletter Jal Jeevan Samvad. This, he said, enables districts to learn continuously from each other and adapt proven practices to their own contexts.

He further clarified the distinction between Har Ghar Jal certification and Jal Arpan. While the former signifies household tap coverage, Jal Arpan marks the formal handover of the entire water supply system to the community after a minimum trial run, so that villagers can observe system performance, understand reporting mechanisms and ensure transparency before assuming responsibility.



Strengthening village-level transparency, he observed, is fundamental to true Jan Bhagidari. When communities are informed and confident, they move from being beneficiaries to custodians of their water systems.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Shri Umesh Bhardwaj, Deputy Secretary, NJJM**, who appreciated the proactive participation of district officials and reiterated DDWS's commitment to supporting

States and districts in achieving sustainable drinking water services.

A Collective Commitment

The 4th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad reaffirmed a central truth of the Jal Jeevan Mission: infrastructure may deliver water, but institutions and people sustain it. As districts across India move into the next phase of the Mission, platforms like Peyjal Samvad will continue to play a vital

role in shaping responsive, transparent and community-owned rural water governance. By placing district leadership and village institutions at the heart of decision-making, the Mission is not only delivering taps—it is nurturing confidence, capability and collective responsibility. In doing so, it is laying the foundation for water security that endures well beyond project timelines, anchored firmly in the hands of the communities it serves.



Figure 42: A young JJM beneficiary with tap connection | Source: NJJM



Jal Arpan Diwas: From Infrastructure Creation to Community Ownership

- Yogendra Kumar Singh, Director, NJJM & Chanchal Modi, NPMU-NJJM



Yogendra Kumar Singh

A New Chapter in Rural Water Governance

When India launched the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** in 2019, the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a clear and ambitious clarion call "**Har Ghar Jal**": ensuring that every rural household receives a functional tap water connection, with water supplied in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality, on a regular and long-term basis, at affordable service delivery charges, thereby improving the living standards and quality of life of rural communities.

Over the years, pipes laid, OHT constructed, pumps installed, and treatment plants have sprouted across the countryside, and dashboards began to show rising coverage numbers. Yet the most transformative shift came later: a deliberate move from merely **creating assets to delivering safe**



water daily, and then **handing over** these systems to the communities themselves.

From Coverage to Community Owned Water Supply System

JJM has fundamentally transformed rural drinking water service delivery by ensuring access to functional tap water connections at the household level. With infrastructure creation progressing rapidly across States and Union Territories, the Mission has now entered a **decisive phase, operation and maintenance (O&M)**.

This transition raises a critical question: How do we ensure that water supply systems continue to function reliably and sustainably long after construction is completed?

Experience from rural water programmes over the years offers a clear answer. Infrastructure, by itself, does not guarantee service continuity. **Sustainability depends on ownership**—on whether communities understand the systems created for them, feel responsible for them, and are empowered to manage them.

It is this shift, **from government-led infrastructure creation to community-led service sustainability** Jal Arpan Diwas comes into the process of establishing Jan Bhagidari.

Jal Arpan Diwas Meaning & Purpose

Jal Arpan Diwas is observed on the day a completed and commissioned village water supply scheme is formally handed over to the Gram Panchayat, the VWSC, and the community. Yet, it is not conceived as a routine administrative milestone. It is a moment of transition carefully recognised and consciously celebrated.

The word *Arpan* signifies dedication, offering, and responsibility. Jal Arpan Diwas symbolises the point at which a water supply system is entrusted to the village as a shared asset, shaped by public investment and sustained through collective care. It represents **the shift from government-led implementation to community-led service delivery, where ownership is not merely transferred, but willingly accepted with pride.**

By design, Jal Arpan Diwas brings visibility and dignity to the handover process. It transforms what could otherwise be a procedural act into a collective village moment—one where roles are acknowledged, responsibilities are clarified, and trust is publicly placed in local institutions. Through Gram Sabha resolutions, community pledges, and the recognition of VWSCs and local functionaries, the day affirms that the village is now the custodian of its water system.

At its core, Jal Arpan Diwas reinforces a simple yet powerful message: the sustainability of rural drinking water systems depends not only on

infrastructure, but on shared responsibility. When communities come together to accept this responsibility, water systems cease to be government schemes and become part of the village's everyday life protected, valued, and sustained for generations. **It marks a clear transition, from construction to O&M, and from department-led implementation to community-led management.**

Importantly, Jal Arpan Diwas is not conceived as a routine administrative milestone. It is designed as a structured, visible, and meaningful handover process, where **ownership is not merely transferred, but publicly accepted by the community.**

Why the Moment of Hand-over Is Critical

The transition from construction to community management is one of the most vulnerable phases in the life cycle of a rural pipe water supply scheme (RPWSS). Past experience shows that systems often underperform or fail when this transition is rushed or poorly defined.



Figure 43: Chilled winter never stopped the enthusiasm of people to celebrate Jal Arpan | Source: Jal Nigam, UP



Recognising this, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under Jal Jeevan Mission, has placed strong emphasis on a prepared and deliberate handover. The underlying principle is simple yet vital: A water supply system should be handed over only when the village is technically, institutionally, and socially ready to manage it.

Jal Arpan Diwas formalises this principle. It creates a defined moment to acknowledge scheme readiness, clarify roles and responsibilities, and anchor accountability at the local level. By institutionalising this moment, **Jal Arpan Diwas strengthens the foundation for long-term sustainability.**

Decentralised Governance at the Core

Drinking water is a local subject, best managed by institutions closest to the people it serves. Jal Jeevan Mission draws its governance strength from the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**, which entrusts this **responsibility to Gram Panchayats.**

Accordingly, JJM's Operational Guidelines emphasise **decentralised,**

demand-driven, and community-managed water supply systems. Gram Panchayats, supported by VWSCs, are envisaged as functional institutions responsible for, operation and maintenance of the scheme, financial management including user charges, water quality monitoring, and protection of water assets and sources.

Women, Self-Help Groups, youth, and trained local functionaries such as Nal Jal Mitras are integral to this framework. **Jal Arpan Diwas** gives public and practical expression to this decentralised governance model, ensuring that **community ownership moves from policy intent to on-ground practice.**

Preparedness Before Jal Arpan Diwas: Ensuring Confidence

A meaningful Jal Arpan Diwas rests on thorough preparedness, as outlined in the **Handbook on Community-Managed Piped Water System**, released by DDWS.

Preparedness begins with **technical readiness.** Prior to handover, the **system undergoes a sustained trial run; typically for 15 to 30 days, to**

confirm regular water supply, adequate pressure, and coverage of all households. Any issues related to leakages, pumps, or electrical components identified during this period are addressed. Water quality testing, conducted through Field Test Kits as well as laboratory analysis, further helps build community confidence in the safety of the water being supplied.

Equally important is **institutional preparedness.** Active VWSCs are in place, with members oriented to their roles and responsibilities. Local operators, or Nal Jal Mitras, are trained to manage day-to-day operations. Bank accounts are made functional to handle user charges and O&M expenses. Essential documentation including as-built drawings, asset registers, O&M manuals, and key contact details is prepared and formally shared with the Gram Panchayat and VWSC.

Preparedness, however, is not merely about completing a checklist. It is about ensuring that, when the system is formally handed over, the Panchayat and the community feel confident, informed, and capable. This sense of readiness transforms Jal Arpan Diwas from a ceremonial



Figure 44: Young school girls tying sacred thread (Jal Bandhan) on tap | Source: Jal Nigam, UP

occasion into a moment of assurance laying the foundation for sustained and community-led water service delivery.

Community Engagement Before Handover

Alongside technical and institutional readiness, Jal Arpan Diwas places strong emphasis on community engagement prior to handover. For the transition to be meaningful, **villagers must understand how the water supply system functions, who is responsible for its operation and maintenance, and why their active participation is essential for long-term sustainability.**

This engagement unfolds through **special Gram Sabha meetings, Jal Chaupals, participatory rural appraisal exercises, and informal community discussions.** Demonstrations of water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs) help demystify water safety, build trust in tap water, and encourage future community-led monitoring. Children, women's groups, Anganwadi workers, and ASHA workers play an important role in spreading awareness and reinforcing responsible water-use practices within households.

Non-resident villagers who live outside the village but remain connected through their roots should also be invited, so that they can witness the transformation brought about in their village under the Jal Jeevan Mission. They may also be encouraged to contribute towards the operation and maintenance of the water supply system. Through this inclusive process, the system gradually becomes a shared responsibility and a source of collective pride, no longer seen as a distant government scheme, but as a community-owned service.

Process of Jal Arpan Diwas Celebration: From Event to People's Movement

Jal Arpan Diwas is envisioned as a Lok Jal Utsav, a **people-centric celebration rooted in local culture and collective participation.** The intent is not to standardise the manner of celebration, but to allow each village to express ownership of its water system in ways that feel familiar, meaningful, and authentic.

- Villages are encouraged to **weave local customs** into the celebration by decorating water assets,

organising Prabhat Pheris or community walks along the water supply scheme, and performing symbolic rituals such as Jal Bandhan. Collective pledges for water conservation, along with folk songs, local art, and other cultural expressions centred on water, further enrich the spirit of the day. The participation of school children, women, elders, frontline workers, and elected representatives such as the Hon'ble Member of Parliament (MP) and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) reinforces inclusiveness, collective ownership, and shared responsibility.

- **Transect Walk / Prabhat Pheri :** The day may begin with a Transect Walk or Prabhat Pheri led by the VWSC, Panchayat members, women's groups, youth, school children, and frontline workers. Participants to walk along the water supply system—from source to household taps jointly verifying functionality and spreading messages on conservation, cleanliness, and asset protection.
- **Jal Bandhan:** Cleaned and decorated water assets such as



Figure 45: Jal Shringar by women during Jal Arpan | Source: Jal Nigam, UP



overhead tanks, pump houses, taps are symbolically tied with a sacred thread. Jal Bandhan represents purity, protection, and the community's shared responsibility towards its water system.

- 💧 **Jal Vandana:** Villages celebrate water through folk songs, bhajans, nukkad natak, and other cultural expressions in the local language, helping build an emotional connect with water and reinforce responsible use.
- 💧 **Jal Sankalp:** A collective water pledge in local language, where villagers publicly commit to protecting water assets, using water judiciously, contributing user charges, and supporting O&M activities.
- 💧 **Jal Shringar:** Rangolis, wall paintings, and visual displays depict the village's water journey. Demonstrations of water quality testing using FTKs often led by trained women to build trust in tap water and encourage community-led monitoring.
- 💧 **Har Ghar Jal Declaration:** Where applicable, the village formally declares Har Ghar Jal, reaffirming collective achievement and shared responsibility.
- 💧 **Recognition and Felicitation:** VWSC members, women leaders, Nal Jal Mitras, volunteers, masons, and frontline workers are publicly recognised, reinforcing pride and sustained engagement.

Through these elements, Jal Arpan Diwas moves beyond ceremony to become a community movement for water stewardship. It becomes a community celebration a local festival of water where pride, gratitude, and commitment come together, and where the village publicly embraces its role as the guardian of its water system.



Figure 46: Award to students during Jal Arpan | Source: Jal Nigam, MP

After Jal Arpan Diwas: Sustaining the Momentum

Jal Arpan Diwas does not mark the conclusion of departmental engagement in a village; rather, it signals a new beginning. It is the point at which community-led management takes centre stage. After the handover, Gram Panchayats provide leadership and oversight, VWSCs manage day-to-day operations, trained operators ensure regular supply, and communities emerge as active custodians and vigilant monitors of their water systems.

At the same time, this transition does not imply withdrawal of institutional support. State Governments, District Water and Sanitation Committees, and district-level technical agencies continue to play a critical enabling role. They provide guidance, capacity building, and technical assistance as required, particularly in cases of major repairs, system augmentation, or complex technical challenges. This ensures that, while ownership rests with the community, they are never left to manage alone.

By institutionalising Jal Arpan Diwas, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has created a powerful mechanism that balances

decentralised ownership with continued institutional support. It strengthens sustainability, transparency, and accountability, while reinforcing a simple but enduring truth: water systems endure not merely because they are built well, but because they are cared for collectively with communities leading and the State standing firmly in support.

Conclusion: Anchoring Sustainability Through Ownership

As Jal Jeevan Mission advances into the O&M phase, Jal Arpan Diwas provides a timely and structured pathway to sustainability. It transforms a technical handover into a shared social commitment, reinforcing the idea that water systems endure not merely because they are built well, but because they are cared for collectively.

In embracing Jal Arpan Diwas, villages are not just receiving infrastructure—they are accepting ownership. And in that ownership lies the promise of reliable, community-managed drinking water services for generations to come.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM



From Scarcity to Security: Kamjong District's Journey under Jal Jeevan Mission

– Rangnamei Rang Peter, IAS, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate, Kamjong District, Manipur



Rangnamei Rang Peter

In 2019, when Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched, Kamjong District stood at a critical crossroads. Nestled in the eastern hills of Manipur and marked by difficult terrain, scattered habitations, and fragile ecosystems, the district faced deep-rooted challenges in ensuring reliable drinking water. At the time, only 19 percent of households had access to tap water. For the majority, water meant long walks to public stand posts, dependence on seasonal springs carried by headload, or waiting anxiously for water tankers during lean periods.

Water scarcity here was not merely about infrastructure gaps, it shaped everyday life. Women and children bore the heaviest burden, time and again prioritising water collection over education, livelihoods, and rest. Existing water supply schemes, many of them ageing and operating below capacity, struggled to meet rising



Figure 47: A happy beneficiary with tap | Source: DWSM Kamjong



Figure 48: Glimpses of Declaration of Har Ghar Jal Villages | Source: DWSM Kamjong

demand. In several villages perched atop hilltops, gravity-based systems were constrained by limited source availability, landslide risks, and difficult access for operation and maintenance.

A Mission That Reached the Last Village

Jal Jeevan Mission brought with it not just financial resources, but a renewed vision of equitable, reliable, and sustainable drinking water for every rural household. In Kamjong, this translated into a district-wide effort to comprehensively assess, revive, augment, and reimagine village water supply systems.

Across 121 villages and 143 habitations spread over **four Tribal Development Blocks**, the Mission set an ambitious but necessary goal: providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to all 11,334 rural households, ensuring a service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd). Existing schemes were systematically upgraded, addressing gaps in source sustainability, treatment capacity, storage, and distribution.

Today, the results are visible and deeply encouraging. FHTC coverage

has increased from 19 percent to 73 percent, marking a transformative shift in the district's water security. Of the total schemes taken up, 55 schemes covering 55 habitations in 41 villages have been successfully completed, and 36 villages have achieved Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) status, with 24 villages already HGJ certified. The remaining 88 schemes, covering 80 villages, are being implemented as

Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) with NDB support and are progressing steadily, with a targeted completion by May 2026.

Engineering Solutions for a Fragile Landscape

Kamjong's geography demands ingenuity. While gravity-based systems remain the backbone of water supply, their implementation in hilltop villages is fraught with challenges steep gradients, erosion-prone slopes, scattered settlements, and high capital costs. Despite these constraints, steady momentum has been achieved through careful planning, site-specific designs, and phased execution.

Equally important has been the focus on sustainability. Infrastructure alone cannot guarantee water security in such fragile environments. The long-term success of schemes depends on the health of water sources and the community's ability to manage them responsibly.

Water Source and Water Supply Sustainability Measures

- I. Strict prohibition are regulated to protect and conserve water sources.
- II. Hoarding with Messages on protection of water source are installed at Intake points & WTPs.
 - ◆ Do not pollute our water source
 - ◆ No use of Pesticides in catchment area
 - ◆ Protect our water source for future generation
 - ◆ Save water save life
 - ◆ No deforestation in catchment area
 - ◆ No fishing/hunting in catchment area
 - ◆ Turn off the tap after use, etc.
- iii. Plantation of trees are done at water source and Water Treatment Plant Site.



Communities at the Centre of Change

One of the most defining features of JJM's implementation in Kamjong has been the active involvement of communities. Through sustained Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) efforts, a strong sense of ownership has taken root. Villagers are no longer passive beneficiaries; they are partners in planning, execution, and maintenance.

Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) have been empowered to operate and maintain in-village water supply systems. These committees collect a nominal monthly water tariff from households to meet operation and maintenance expenses, ensuring functionality of FHTCs and reducing dependence on external support.

A particularly inspiring aspect has been the leadership of women. At least five women members in each VWSC have been trained to conduct regular water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs). This has not only strengthened water safety surveillance but also enhanced women's confidence, skills, and role in local governance.

Community participation is also evident during restoration and repair works, where collective effort often bridges logistical and resource constraints. Such engagement has fostered trust and accountability the key ingredients for sustainable service delivery.

Protecting Sources, Securing the Future

Experience has shown that source sustainability is the cornerstone of reliable water supply. In Kamjong, this understanding has translated into strict protective measures around catchment areas, intake points, and Water Treatment Plants. Prohibitions against pollution, pesticide use, deforestation, fishing, and hunting in catchment zones are actively promoted.

At strategic locations, hoardings carry simple but powerful messages: Do not pollute our water source, protect our water source for future generations, save water, save life, and turn off the tap after use. Complementing these efforts, tree plantation drives have been undertaken around sources and treatment facilities to enhance recharge and ecological balance.

Beyond Infrastructure: Health, Dignity, and Resilience

The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission in Kamjong goes far beyond pipes and taps. Reliable access to safe drinking water has begun to improve public health, reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases, and enhance quality of life. Children have more time for school, women gain hours previously lost to water collection, and households experience a renewed sense of dignity.

Most importantly, the Mission has fostered self-reliance and resilience in this remote border district. By combining technical solutions with community stewardship, Kamjong is steadily moving towards becoming a Har Ghar Jal district by May 2026.

The journey is not without challenges, but the direction is clear. From scarcity to security, Kamjong's experience stands as a testament to what is possible when policy vision, administrative commitment, and community participation come together, drop by drop, household by household.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM



Figure 49: A child drinking water from tap | Source: DWSM Kamjong



From Promise to People's Everyday Confidence - Dhar District's Journey under Jal Jeevan Mission

- Priyank Mishra, IAS, District Collector & Magistrate, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh



Priyank Mishra

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, reviewed the progress and innovations in selected districts across all states under the Jal Jeevan Mission through a video conference with District Collectors on December 11, 2025. The Collectors' Peyjal Samvad is conceptualized as a knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate cross-learning among districts implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The initiative aims to bring together District Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, and CEOs to present their district's achievements, innovations, and learning's in rural drinking water supply.

When we look back at the beginning of JJM in Dhar, one image stands out: the quiet anticipation in our villages on August 15, 2019, when just 51,060 rural families about 13.30% of



Figure 50: Presentation of district initiatives at 4th Peyjal Samvad | Source: DWSM Dhar

households had a functional household tap connection (FHTC). Today, that anticipation has turned into everyday confidence. As of November 25, 2025, 303,216 families

78.98% of Dhar's rural households receive water through taps at home. This isn't merely a statistic; it is the story of dignity, health, and time reclaimed for our communities.

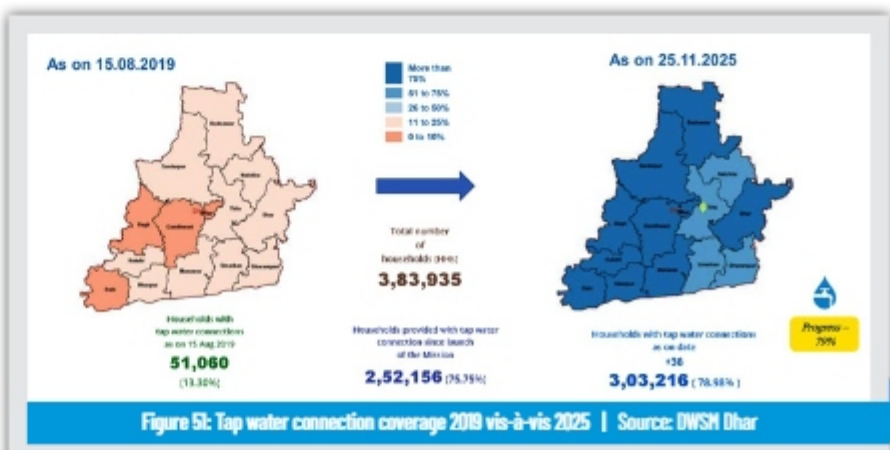




Figure 52: Drinking directly from tap as quality water flowing | Source: DWSM Dhar

What Progress Looks Like at the Village Level

Across 13 blocks, our momentum has been both broad-based and granular. Kukshi block has reached 100% household coverage, with 45 out of 48 villages at full FHTC, an example of how focused implementation and local leadership deliver results. Blocks like Nisarpur (94%), Badnawar (92%), and Dhar (91%) have also made remarkable strides, while blocks such as Gandhwani and

Sardarpur are consolidating gains in the 81% range. Collectively, 808 villages now have 100% FHTC more than half of the district's 1,475 villages, a foundation upon which we are building sustainable service delivery.

The Rajond Success Story: Water that Builds Trust

One year of uninterrupted service can build a lifetime of trust, and Rajond Group Water Supply Scheme

has done just that. Beneficiary feedback from Rajond has consistently highlighted timely supply, improved water quality, and the tangible relief of no longer having to plan daily life around water collection. In Rajond, Garhi village (Dharsikheda Gram Panchayat) has **piloted 24x7 continuous supply**, proving that round-the-clock availability is not a dream but a disciplined operational achievement. With community engagement at its core, we are now preparing to extend 24x7 service to other villages within the scheme.

The Big Picture: Multi Village Schemes Driving Reliability

Dhar's reliability story is anchored in seven major Multi Village Water Supply (MVS) schemes.

- ◆ Rajond (AA cost ₹109.50 Cr) is completed, achieving operational stability in 2024.
- ◆ Bagh and Rignod have reached 99% physical progress, and are on track for completion in early 2026.
- ◆ The larger backbones - Upper Narmada (73%) and Mahi (62%) - continue to advance, while Mann Dam (59%) and Lower Narmada (46%) are steadily overcoming engineering and coordination challenges. Each of these schemes represents the hard work of teams in the field and the patience of the communities they serve.

Benefits of 24x7 village water supply

A continuous water supply is not just a technical target; it's a social transformation.

- ◆ Health improves as clean water reduces the burden of water borne diseases.

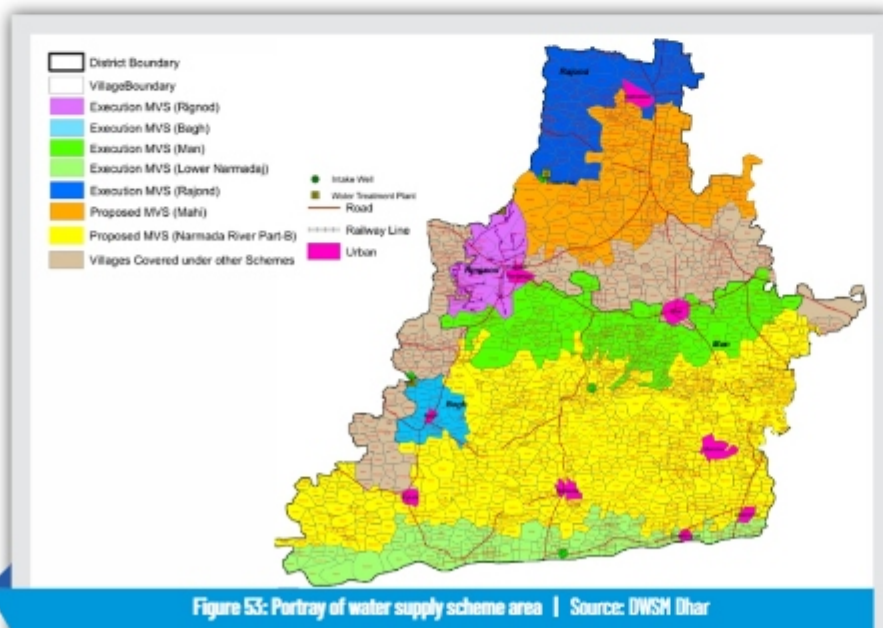


Figure 53: Portray of water supply scheme area | Source: DWSM Dhar



Figure 54: Beneficiaries celebrating when water flows from tap | Source: DWSM Dhar

- Convenience and dignity enter the home, freeing women and children from long walks to fetch water.
- Education benefits as children spend more time in school.
- Livelihoods grow when time saved converts into productive work.
- Community ownership deepens, as villagers operate and safeguard local assets.

Our experience in Garhi shows that 24x7 is achievable when communi-

ties, Gram Panchayats, and Jal Nigam work as one team.

Making Responsibilities Clear: Model Agreements & Panchayat Roles

Sustainable water service requires clarity of roles and accountability. We have executed model agreements with Gram Panchayats for 24x7 supply, defining responsibilities on bulk water measurement, distribution schedules, valve operations, and protection of assets like OHTs, flow

meters, and FHTCs. Panchayats are also entrusted with fixing and revising household water charges, ensuring concessions for weaker sections, and making timely bulk payments to the Jal Nigam. This contractual clarity has improved coordination and reduced ambiguity on the ground.

Digitization for Transparency: Panchayat Darpan & UNIPAY

To make payments seamless and transparent, we are using the Panchayat Darpan Portal (PDP) for bulk water bill generation and collection from Gram Panchayats/VWSCs, built with NIC Bhopal. The portal enables computerized bills, district-wise monitoring, and real-time tracking of bill vs collection. In Dhar, PDP has mapped both aggregate billing and collections month by month, giving us a clear view of pendency and progress. For citizens, UNIPAY has simplified household charge payments searching bills via Samagra ID, Bill No., or mobile number, and paying through UPI, net banking, cards, NEFT/RTGS, and IMPS minimizing cash handling risks and administration overhead for Panchayats.



Figure 55: Panchayat Darpan Mobile App | Source: DWSM Dhar



Figure 56: An elderly beneficiary with Tap | Source: DWSM Kamjong

Challenges We Acknowledge and Are Addressing

We have learned that technology succeeds when people are ready to use it. Some Gram Panchayats and VWSCs need greater awareness of PDP, and digital literacy among field functionaries must improve. Internet connectivity in remote pockets can slow platform adoption. Additionally, Panchayats need continuous nudging to make timely bulk payments. We are tackling these through hands-on orientations, helpdesks, phased targets, and data-driven reviews because sustained service demands sustained collaboration.

The Road Ahead: Deepening Equity and Service Quality

Dhar's next chapter under JJM is about service standards: pressure, quality, continuity, and grievance

redressal. As we scale 24x7 to more villages, we will prioritize:

1. **Last-mile reliability**-ensuring every habitation receives equitable pressure through disciplined valve management and measured distribution.
2. **Community-led O&M**-training local operators and VWSCs to keep systems resilient.
3. **Financial sustainability**-strengthening bulk and household collections on PDP/ UNIPAY, with data dashboards guiding timely actions.
4. **Health and behavior change**-continuous IEC on safe storage and hygiene to amplify health gains from reliable water.

A Collective Achievement

Our progress is the sum of thousands of everyday actions, engineers

measuring flow at odd hours, valve operators keeping pressure balanced, Panchayat leaders motivating households to pay on time, and villagers ensuring assets are protected. From 51,060 to 303,216 tap connections, Dhar has shown that when we align institutions with communities, results follow. The Collectors' Peyjal Samvad platform is helping us learn faster celebrating innovations, candidly discussing challenges, and accelerating cross-learning across districts.

The promise of JJM is not just about infrastructure; it is about confidence that every household can plan its day without worrying if water will arrive. In Dhar, that confidence is growing 'every single day, in every single home.'

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Haridwar's Drinking Water supply Journey - Strengthening Decentralized Water Governance

- Mayur Dixit, IAS, Collector cum District Magistrate, Haridwar



Mayur Dixit

Building a Model of Discipline, Coordination, and Community Ownership

As the Collector-cum-District Magistrate of Haridwar, I have had the privilege of steering the district's implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) through a journey marked not only by administrative innovation and community participation but also by deep cultural consciousness. In Haridwar, water is not merely a resource — it is a **sacred legacy**, woven into our spiritual, historical, and cultural identity.

The Ganga, which flows through the heart of Haridwar, has for millennia been revered as a purifier, a life-giver, and a symbol of liberation. Every year, millions arrive at Har Ki Pauri to seek blessings, perform rituals, and connect with centuries-old traditions that honour water as *amrit* — the elixir of life.

This sacred relationship makes our work under JJM even more meaningful. In Haridwar, ensuring clean, reliable drinking water is not just a developmental obligation; it is a **dharma** — a duty we carry forward from our ancestors, who taught us to protect and revere natural resources.

Our district's progress, presented at the **4th Peyjal Samvad (2025)**, stands today as a testament to a governance model built on discipline, community trust, and respect for cultural values.

District Overview, Haridwar

Haridwar holds a unique position in India's cultural and spiritual geography. Recognized as one of the **Sapta Puri** — the seven holiest cities in Hindu tradition — this region has long been a focal point for pilgrims seeking the purifying waters of the Ganga. The belief that a dip in Haridwar's waters cleanses the soul is deeply entrenched in our collective memory.

Beyond its spiritual significance, Haridwar is also a vast administrative landscape consisting of:

- **310 Gram Panchayats**
- **473 villages**
- A rural population of **over 7.1 lakh citizens**
- Only **15,321 households** had functional tap connections in 2019
- By November 2025, **239,425 households** were connected (95.99% coverage)

This transformational journey — the provision of **2,24,104 new tap connections** — embodies our commitment to ensuring that every family in Haridwar receives the dignity and security that reliable water supply brings.

At the 4th Peyjal Samvad, I presented Haridwar's progress not just as a compilation of achievements, but as a model that demonstrates how structured administrative action can deliver rapid, sustainable outcomes.

We showcased how stringent monitoring, quality assurance mechanisms, and community engagement strategies enabled us to execute projects on time while ensuring long-term sustainability. Each component—from planning to execution, from O&M to grievance redressal—was strengthened through clear protocols and empowered field teams.

The platform provided an opportunity for districts across India to exchange insights, and I was proud to represent Haridwar's efforts as an example of governance meeting grassroots needs with precision and empathy.

Our district's progress under JJM has been both substantial and multi-dimensional:

i. Massive infrastructure rollout

We undertook the execution of **375 Piped Water Supply (PWS) schemes**. Out of these:



- ◆ **299 schemes** are already physically completed
- ◆ **76 schemes** are scheduled for completion by **31 March 2026**

ii. Har Ghar Jal Certification

Through coordinated efforts at village level:

- ◆ Gram Sabha's were conducted systematically
- ◆ All public institutions were ensured coverage
- ◆ Video documentation and HGJ certificates were uploaded to IMIS

Certification was not treated as a formality-it served as a community-endorsed confirmation that every household genuinely receives water through taps.

Governance Challenges in Haridwar

Haridwar's unique geographical and operational landscape presented several challenges that demanded continuous administrative intervention:

- i. **Complete dependency on tubewell-based systems:** Ensuring uninterrupted electricity, pump functionality, and regular chlorination required meticulous planning and departmental readiness.
- ii. **Large geographical spread across 473 villages:** Maintaining real-time oversight demanded strong coordination between engineering teams, field staff, and monitoring agencies.
- iii. **Land and ROW bottlenecks:** Despite strong institutional cooperation, securing Panchayat land and obtaining NHAI/ railway clearances required persistent follow-ups and inter-departmental collaboration.
- iv. **Behavioural change and community compliance:** Sustaining awareness around water usage, preventing wastage, and ensuring user-charge payment required sustained community engagement, not one-time messaging.

These challenges strengthened our resolve to establish robust, institutionalized systems for planning, execution, and accountability.

Administrative Innovations

To address these challenges effectively, we adopted several administrative innovations:

- i. **Rigorous, Multi-Layered Monitoring:** Monitoring under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Haridwar was designed to be both disciplined and comprehensive. Daily inspections were carried out by SDOs, JEs, and AEs to ensure constant field-level vigilance. In addition, third-party quality inspections by QACA and TUV SÜD provided an additional layer of independent scrutiny. These efforts were supported by fortnightly technical reviews conducted by senior engineers and monthly district-level review meetings chaired by me. Together, this system ensured full transparency, quick problem-solving, and timely corrective actions.



Figure 57: Community awareness | Source: DWSM Haridwar



ii. Strengthened Quality Assurance:

To uphold the highest standards of construction quality, we established on-site laboratories capable of testing cement, concrete, reinforcement steel, aggregates, and mix designs. Routine core-cutting and thickness verification were also conducted to confirm structural integrity and long-term stability. This strong quality assurance ecosystem prevented construction defects and significantly reduced the likelihood of future repair burdens.

iii. Robust Operations & Maintenance Framework:

The Operations & Maintenance mechanism, aligned with Uttarakhand's O&M policy, ensured reliable functioning of all water supply systems. Tubewell-based schemes were operated directly by the department, and both major and minor repairs were attended to promptly to avoid service disruptions. Daily pump operations, chlorination cycles, and preventive maintenance activities were executed strictly according to well-defined SOPs, ensuring the safety and consistency of water delivery.

iv. Rapid Administrative Coordination:

Administrative coordination

played a crucial role in accelerating project execution. Panchayat land required for 246 schemes was secured within just three months, eliminating a major bottleneck. Right-of-way clearances were expedited through direct engagement with NHAI and Railways, ensuring no procedural delays. Potential disputes were proactively resolved at an early stage, which helped maintain steady momentum and ensured that deadlines were met without compromising quality.

Strategies For Stakeholder Engagement in Haridwar

Stakeholder engagement is the backbone of sustainable service delivery. In Haridwar, we adopted a community-centric approach:

i. IEC-Based Behavioural Change:

A sustained IEC campaign played a pivotal role in shaping positive community behaviour toward water governance. Through continuous outreach, villagers were encouraged to use water judiciously, pay user charges on time, reduce wastage, and take ownership of village water supply assets. These efforts collectively strengthened responsible water practices and enhanced

community participation in the management of drinking water systems.

ii. Strengthening Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs):

VWSCs emerged as crucial on-ground partners in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission activities. They actively supported issue reporting, facilitated awareness programmes, monitored daily and seasonal water supply schedules, and mobilized community engagement. Their involvement created a bridge between the administration and the community, ensuring timely feedback and effective local-level governance.

iii. Women-Led Water Quality Monitoring:

Women's groups—particularly Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Mahila Bal Kalyan (MBK) workers—were trained extensively to lead water quality monitoring efforts. They performed FTK testing, collected water samples, and uploaded results onto the WQMIS platform. This approach not only strengthened local surveillance of water quality but also empowered women as informed leaders and key stakeholders in village-level water governance.



Figure 58-60: Water Harvesting structures | Source: DWSM Haridwar

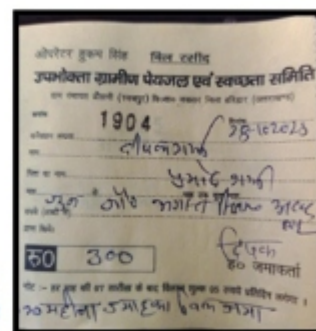
Case Study 1

Block: Laksar
GP: Dausani
Village: Dausani
Households: 184
Tax/HH: Rs.60/-
Est. Collection: Rs.1,32,480
Avg. Collection: Rs.1,05,719
Collection Rate: 79.80%
Utilisation: Energy dues, sanitation & salaries



Case Study 2

Block: Laksar
GP: Dausani
Village: Rajabpur
Households: 264
Tax/HH: Rs.60/-
Est. Collection: Rs.1,90,080
Avg. Collection: Rs.1,39,822
Collection Rate: 73.56%
Utilisation: Energy dues & salaries



Door-to-door collection, proper receipts and complete transparency in utilization and regular follow ups ensure community trust and high compliance.

At Present minimum user charges of RS. 60.00/- Per month is being made and the process is on.

Figure 6I: Best practices in water user-charge collection | Source: DWSM Haridwar

- v. **Shared Responsibility for Source Sustainability:** Communities were encouraged to take collective responsibility for protecting natural water sources. Their active participation helped prevent wastage, promote responsible use, and ensure long-term sustainability of the drinking water supply. This shared stewardship reinforced the connection between community behaviour and the health of local water resources.

To ensure the sustainability of our Piped Water Supply schemes, we have focused on source strengthening. In Dhar, similar to best practices in other states, we are promoting rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. For example, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan constructed 11 rainwater harvesting structures in Haridwar to recharge tubewells—a model we are studying and adapting for our own schemes.

Success Stories of the District

Through our focused efforts, we strengthened community-managed user charge systems, enabling villages such as Dausani and Rajabpur to emerge as models of transparency and cooperation, achieving 79.8% and 73.56% collection respectively through structured door-to-door collection, proper receipts, and transparent fund utilization. At the same time, we established a robust water quality surveillance framework that combined bi-annual NABL laboratory testing, routine FTK testing by SHGs and MBKs, and 3.5% sample verification at state labs, ensuring that reliability of supply was always matched with assured water safety. Complementing these initiatives, we also implemented targeted source sustainability interventions, including recharge structures and groundwater replenishment measures, securing long-term water availability and reinforcing the district's commitment to sustainable water governance.

Conclusion

Haridwar's JJM journey represents a synthesis of **administrative discipline, technical excellence, and community participation**. As District Magistrate, I have witnessed first-hand how rural communities respond when governance is transparent, responsive, and inclusive. Our progress under JJM is not just about infrastructural achievement—it is a testament to collective will, administrative resolve, and the belief that every household deserves reliable and dignified access to drinking water.

As India moves closer to realizing the vision of **Har Ghar Jal**, Haridwar is proud to contribute a model that demonstrates how structured systems, empowered communities, and dedicated teams can together build a sustainable water-secure future.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Mission 100 – Davangere model of 24*7 water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission

– Gangadhara Swamy G.M., Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere, Karnataka



Gangadhara Swamy G.M.

When we speak about water, we are speaking about life—about health, dignity, livelihoods, and the quiet rhythm of everyday living. In

Davanagere district, located at the heart of Karnataka, water has always shaped both opportunity and constraint. Bordered by Chitradurga, Vijayanagara, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Haveri, the district sits at a geographical crossroads. The Tungabhadra River flows through parts of the district like a lifeline, yet many habitations have historically faced seasonal scarcity, fluctuating sources, and uneven access.

Against this backdrop, Davanagere's journey under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is not merely a story of infrastructure expansion. It is a story of administrative resolve, community ownership, and a collective belief that safe, sufficient drinking water

should be available to every household 'every hour of every day'.

Building the Foundation

Davanagere district comprises six taluks, 194 Gram Panchayats, 694 villages, and 876 habitations, with a rural population of 11.55 lakh as per the 2011 Census. With an average annual rainfall of about 644 mm modest in comparison to growing domestic and livelihood needs water planning in the district has always required careful balancing of demand, source sustainability, and operational efficiency.

Under JJM, the district has achieved 233,649 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) out of a target of 259,531 rural households, translating into 90.03% coverage. Each tap connection represents far more than a pipeline or valve; it signifies reduced drudgery for women, safer water for children, better hygiene for families, and a fundamental improvement in quality of life. This progress laid the groundwork for Davanagere to think beyond access and to focus on reliability, continuity, and service delivery.

Mission 100: From Access to Assurance

Building on the momentum of JJM, Davanagere launched an ambitious and forward-looking initiative **Mission 100** with a clear objective: **to declare 100 villages as 24*7 continuous drinking water supply villages.**



Figure 62: A beneficiary with her functional tap connection | Source: DWSM Davanagere





Figure 63: A beneficiary fetching water from her functional tap connection | Source: DWSM Davanagere

The journey began with Danihalli village of Ganganakote Gram Panchayat. Danihalli became the district's first self-declared 24x7 water supply village, demonstrating that uninterrupted water supply is

not an abstract ideal but a practical, achievable reality. For the past two and a half years, the village has sustained round-the-clock water supply, offering valuable lessons in technical design, operational

management, and community engagement. Danihalli's success sparked confidence across the district. What began as a single-village experiment soon evolved into a district-wide movement. Today,



Figure 64-65: 24/7 Village Declaration in presence of Honourable MP, MLA,MLC, DC, CEO,GP President, Dept Officers & Beneficiaries | Source: DWSM Davanagere



Figure 66: A girl happily drinking water from tap | Source: DWSM Davanagere

Davanagere leads Karnataka with 57 villages including 45 revenue villages and 12 habitations already enjoying continuous, potable water supply under JJM. Each of these villages stands as proof that when systems are designed well and communities are engaged meaningfully, water security can move from aspiration to assurance.

What Makes a Village Truly 24x7

Declaring a village as 24x7 water supply is not a ceremonial label in Davanagere, it is a carefully validated status backed by data, monitoring, and accountability. Several rigorous parameters guide this declaration:

- Bulk water meter readings to track total water supplied
- Consumer-level usage analysis to ensure equitable distribution
- Assessment of non-revenue water to identify leakages and losses
- Monitoring daily pumping hours to maintain continuity
- Comparative analysis of O&M costs between intermittent and continuous supply models
- Electricity consumption studies to improve operational efficiency

These metrics ensure that 24x7 supply is not only achieved but sustained, balancing technical feasibility with financial prudence.

Challenges Along the Way and the Solutions Found

Mission 100 was ambitious, and the path was not without challenges. Continuous water supply demanded higher levels of planning, coordination, and community readiness. Key

Outcomes of 24/7 water supply in Davanagere - Reducing Non-Revenue Water, Reduction Water Consumption in KL & Reduction Pumping Hours

Sl.	Taluk	Village	Before Declaration NRW	After Declaration NRW	Before Declaration Water Consumption	After Declaration Water Consumption	% of Reduction Water Consumption in KL After Declaration	Before Declaration Pumping Hours	After Declaration Pumping Hours	% of Reduction Pumping Hours
1	Honnali	Hanagavadi	42%	31%	210	161	23.33	8	6	25
2	Honnali	Ghantyapura	54%	21%	177	145	15.24	10	6	40
3	Harihara	Kadlegondi	32%	10%	96	75	10	7	5	28.6
4	Harihara	Salaganahalli	29%	9%	88	68	9.52	7	4	42.9
5	Channagiri	Melanayakanakatte	32%	6%	89	65	11.43	10	5	50
6	Channagiri	Thilingeri Katte	35%	13%	90	74	7.62	8	6	25
7	Nyamathi	Danihalli	40%	29%	160	111	23.33	10	6	40
8	Nyamathi	Madapura	31%	14%	89	74	7.14	8	5	37.5
9	Davanagere	Dyamenahalli	30%	16%	110	85	11.9	7	5	28.6
10	Davanagere	Kashipura	40%	20%	190	145	21.43	8	6	25
11	Channagiri	Halli Mallapura	40%	16%	90	76	6.67	8	5	37.5
12	Channagiri	Giriyapura	20%	15%	75	64	5.24	7	6	14.3

Conscious use of water by Community

Reduction in Electricity charges

Reduction in Leakage of water at Pipelines & FHTCs

Overall, 13% Reduction in Water Consumption After Declaration

Overall, 33% Reduction in Pumping hours After Declaration

challenges included managing operational costs, ensuring source sustainability during dry spells, addressing technical issues related to pressure and quality, and preparing communities for new billing and usage norms.

These challenges were addressed through a blend of engineering solutions and social mobilisation. Technical upgrades improved pressure management and reduced leakages. Source augmentation and protection measures were taken up to guard against seasonal stress. Equally important was communication helping communities understand that 24x7 supply requires responsible use, timely payments, and collective vigilance.

Village meetings, awareness campaigns, and close engagement with Gram Panchayats built trust and ownership. Over time, what initially seemed unfamiliar became a shared goal—clean water, available whenever needed.

The Outcomes: Transformations Beyond the Tap

The impact of 24x7 water supply in Davanagere extends far beyond convenience. Health outcomes have improved, with reduced incidence of waterborne diseases. Women and children, once burdened with fetching and storing water, now have time for education, livelihoods, and rest. Schools function more smoothly, anganwadis maintain better hygiene, and households experience a sense of dignity that comes with dependable water access.

Economically, families are better positioned to pursue income-generating activities instead of planning their days around water availability. Socially, communities have grown more confident in

managing shared assets. Water has become not just a service delivered by the government, but a resource collectively protected by the village.

Ensuring Sustainability for the Long Term

The true measure of success lies not only in achieving 24x7 supply, but in sustaining it. Davanagere's approach rests on **four pillars**:

- Source sustainability, through rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and protection of local water bodies
- Efficient O&M systems, with regular monitoring and preventive maintenance
- Digital tools for billing, grievance redressal, and performance tracking, ensuring transparency
- Community-led management, fostering responsibility and shared stewardship

Village institutions play a central role in this framework, ensuring that systems remain functional long after project implementation.

The Road Ahead: From Mission 100 to Universal Assurance

Mission 100 is not the final destination it marks the beginning of a new chapter in Davanagere's water story. With 57 villages already enjoying 24x7 supply, efforts are underway to bring the remaining villages into this fold. The vision is simple yet powerful: every household, every day, every hour water when it is needed.

Davanagere's experience offers valuable lessons for districts across the country. Through platforms such as Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, these learnings can be shared, refined, and replicated. Together, districts can move from intermittent supply to service assurance, from infrastructure creation to sustainable governance.

In Davanagere, water security is no longer just a promise on paper. It flows steadily into homes, into daily routines, and into the future of rural communities quietly transforming lives, one tap at a time.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJIM



Figure 67: A happy family with functional tap connection | Source: DWSM Davanagere



सुशासन, सहभागिता और संकल्प: लातेहार में जल जीवन मिशन की ऐतिहासिक सफलता की गाथा

- उत्कर्ष गुप्ता (IAS), उपायुक्त, लातेहार, झारखंड



उत्कर्ष गुप्ता

बदलाव की ओर बढ़ते कदम झारखंड का लातेहार जिला, जो अपनी घनी वनाच्छादित पहाड़ियों और दुर्गम भौगोलिक स्थिति के लिए जाना जाता है, ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में विकास की एक नई कहानी लिखी है। कभी पेयजल की भीषण किल्लत और असुरक्षित जलस्रोतों पर निर्भर रहने वाला यह जिला आज 'जल जीवन मिशन' के अंतर्गत सफलता का एक ऐसा मॉडल बनकर उभरा है, जो न केवल राज्य बल्कि राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चर्चा का विषय है।

पानी केवल एक प्राकृतिक संसाधन नहीं है—यह जीवन, स्वास्थ्य, सम्मान और विकास की बुनियाद है। झारखंड के वनाच्छादित और दुर्गम भूभागों में बसे जिलों के लिए सुरक्षित पेयजल की उपलब्धता लंबे समय तक एक गंभीर चुनौती रही है। लेकिन आज झारखंड का लातेहार जिला इस धारणा को बदलते हुए यह सिद्ध कर रहा है कि यदि प्रशासनिक दृढ़ता, सामुदायिक सहभागिता और स्पष्ट दृष्टि एक साथ आएँ, तो सबसे कठिन भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों में भी परिवर्तन संभव है।



Figure 68: योजना का निरीक्षण | Source: DWDM लातेहार

घनी पहाड़ियों, बिखरी हुई आदिवासी बसावटों और सीमित संसाधनों के बावजूद लातेहार ने जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत जो उपलब्धि हासिल की है, वह न केवल राज्य बल्कि राष्ट्रीय

स्तर पर भी प्रेरणास्रोत बन चुकी है। यह कहानी केवल नलों और पाइपलाइनों की नहीं है, बल्कि विश्वास, स्वामित्व और सुशासन की सशक्त मिसाल है।



Figure 69: जल सहियों के साथ महिलाओं की बैठक
Source: DWSM खेतोर

जल अभाव से आशा तक

15 अगस्त 2019 को जब जल जीवन मिशन की शुरुआत हुई थी, उस समय लातेहार जिले की स्थिति अत्यंत चुनौतीपूर्ण थी। कुल 1,86,116 ग्रामीण परिवारों में से मात्र 2,835 परिवारों (1.52 %) के पास ही नल से जल की सुविधा उपलब्ध थी। अधिकांश गांव असुरक्षित जलस्रोतों—झरनों, कुओं या दूरस्थ हैंडपंपों पर निर्भर थे। महिलाओं और बच्चों के लिए पानी लाना दैनिक जीवन का सबसे कठिन कार्य था और जलजनित बीमारियाँ आम बात थीं।

लेकिन प्रशासनिक प्रतिबद्धता, योजनाबद्ध क्रियान्वयन और जन-भागीदारी के बल पर यह तस्वीर तेजी से बदली। आज जिले के 1,36,614 परिवारों (73.40 %) को घर-घर नल से शुद्ध पेयजल की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा रही है। यह परिवर्तन किसी एक आदेश या परियोजना का परिणाम नहीं, बल्कि निरंतर निगरानी, जमीनी स्तर पर सक्रियता और समुदाय के साथ विश्वासपूर्ण साझेदारी का प्रतिफल है।

योजनाओं से आगे: संचालन और स्वामित्व की वास्तविक सफलता

जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत लातेहार जिले में कुल 6,959 पेयजल योजनाएँ स्वीकृत की गईं,

जिनमें से 4,143 योजनाओं का भौतिक निर्माण पूर्ण हो चुका है। किंतु लातेहार की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि केवल बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण नहीं, बल्कि इन योजनाओं का सफल हैंडओवर और प्रभावी संचालन है।

पूर्ण हुई योजनाओं में से 4,121 योजनाओं (लगभग 99 प्रतिशत) को ग्राम जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति (VWSC) को संचालन एवं रख-रखाव हेतु सौंप दिया गया है, जो राज्य में सर्वाधिक है। यह आंकड़ा इस बात का प्रमाण है कि जिला प्रशासन ने प्रारंभ से ही दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता और सामुदायिक स्वामित्व को प्राथमिकता दी।

जब गांव स्वयं अपनी जलापूर्ति योजनाओं के संचालन में भागीदार बनते हैं, तो वे केवल लाभार्थी नहीं रहते, बल्कि संरक्षक की भूमिका निभाते हैं। यही लातेहार मॉडल की सबसे बड़ी ताकत है।

‘सिंगल विलेज स्कीम’: स्थानीय परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप समाधान

लातेहार की दुर्गम भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए जिला प्रशासन ने बड़ी और जटिल परियोजनाओं के बजाय ‘सिंगल विलेज स्कीम (SVS)’ को प्राथमिकता दी। छोटे,

स्थानीय जलस्रोतों पर आधारित और प्रबंधनीय इन मॉडलों ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि प्रत्येक गांव अपनी आवश्यकता और क्षमता के अनुरूप जलापूर्ति प्रणाली विकसित कर सके।

इस मिशन की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण नहीं, बल्कि उसका प्रबंधन है। योजनाओं के संचालन एवं रख-रखाव की जिम्मेदारी ग्रामीणों को सौंपने से उनमें स्थानीय स्वामित्व (Ownership) की भावना विकसित हुई है, जिससे योजनाएं अधिक प्रभावी और टिकाऊ बनी हैं। इससे तकनीकी समस्याओं का त्वरित समाधान संभव हुआ और ग्रामीणों का भरोसा भी सुदृढ़ हुआ।

जल सहियाएँ: परिवर्तन की जमीनी नायिकाएँ

लातेहार की इस सफलता गाथा में यदि किसी की भूमिका सबसे अधिक प्रेरणादायक है, तो वे हैं जिले की जल सहियाएँ। दुर्गम वनांचल, कठिन रास्तों और बिखरी हुई आदिवासी बसावटों के बीच जल सहियाओं ने यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि ‘हर घर जल’ केवल एक सरकारी नारा न रहे, बल्कि जमीनी सच्चाई बने।

लातेहार की जल सहियाएँ एक बहुआयामी भूमिका निभा रही हैं, सत्यापन और निगरानी का



Figure 70: जल सहियाओं के साथ महिलाओं की बैठक | Source: DWSM लातेहार

कार्य इनके द्वारा किया जा रहा है, वे घर-घर जाकर नल कनेक्शनों का सत्यापन करती हैं, नियमित जलापूर्ति की निगरानी करती हैं और मोटर-पंप खराबी या पाइपलाइन लीकेज जैसी समस्याओं की सूचना समय पर विभाग तक पहुँचाती हैं। स्थानीय भाषा, संस्कृति और सामाजिक संरचना की समझ के कारण उन्होंने समुदाय का विश्वास अर्जित किया है और लोगों को योजना से जोड़ा है।

जल कर संग्रहण: आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में ठोस कदम

किसी भी सरकारी योजना की दीर्घकालिक सफलता उसकी आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता पर निर्भर करती है। इस दिशा में लातेहार जिले ने ₹62 प्रति परिवार प्रति माह जल कर (Water Tariff) संग्रहण का एक अनुकरणीय मॉडल प्रस्तुत किया है। जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति, लातेहार के मार्गदर्शन और जल सहियाओं के प्रयासों से जिले की अधिकांश ग्राम पंचायतों में जल कर (Water Tariff) संग्रहण की व्यवस्था सुदृढ़ की गई है।

जल सहियाएँ घर-घर जाकर न केवल शुल्क वसूल रही हैं, बल्कि रसीद निर्गमन और डिजिटल माध्यमों के उपयोग को भी बढ़ावा दे रही हैं। वे

ग्रामीणों को समझाती हैं कि यह शुल्क सरकार के लिए नहीं, बल्कि उनके अपने गांव की जलापूर्ति योजना के रख-रखाव (पंप मरम्मत, ऑपरेटर का मानदेय आदि) के लिए है। इसका परिणाम यह है कि अब ग्रामीण स्वेच्छा से जल शुल्क का भुगतान कर रहे हैं, जिससे योजनाएं आत्मनिर्भर बन रही हैं। इस कार्य के लिए जल सहियाओं को मानदेय के साथ-साथ प्रोत्साहन राशि भी दी जा रही है, जिससे उनकी कार्यक्षमता बढ़ी है।

'सिंगल विलेज स्कीम' (SVS) और बहु-ग्राम (MVS) योजनाओं में मोटर-पंप की खराबी या पाइपलाइन में लीकेज की सूचना तुरंत विभाग तक पहुँचाकर वे मरम्मत कार्य को त्वरित बनाती हैं। राज्य स्तर पर झार जल पोर्टल के माध्यम से भी शिकायत निवारण का कार्य प्राथमिकता के आधार के किया जाता है।

सुशासन और तकनीक: पारदर्शिता की मजबूत नींव

इस व्यापक परिवर्तन के पीछे लातेहार जिला प्रशासन का सुशासन के प्रति स्पष्ट और दृढ़ दृष्टिकोण रहा है। जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति द्वारा नियमित बैठकों के माध्यम से योजनाओं की प्रगति, गुणवत्ता और हैंडओवर प्रक्रिया की सतत निगरानी की जाती है।

VWSC और जल सहियाओं को प्रशिक्षण देकर उनकी क्षमताओं को सशक्त किया गया है। राज्य स्तर पर झार जल पोर्टल के माध्यम से शिकायत निवारण को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है, जिससे समस्याओं का समाधान समयबद्ध ढंग से हो रहा है।

सामाजिक प्रभाव और भविष्य की राह

जल जीवन मिशन का प्रभाव अब लातेहार के सामाजिक ताने-बाने में स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे रहा है। महिलाओं को सिर पर पानी ढोने के कठिन श्रम से मुक्ति मिली है। उनके समय की बचत हो रही है, जिसे वे अब पारिवारिक, शैक्षणिक और आर्थिक गतिविधियों में लगा पा रही हैं। स्वच्छ जल की उपलब्धता से जलजनित बीमारियों में उल्लेखनीय कमी आई है, जिससे बच्चों और बुजुर्गों का स्वास्थ्य बेहतर हुआ है।

जल सहियाओं द्वारा चलाए जा रहे जागरूकता अभियानों से जल संरक्षण, स्वच्छता और पानी की बर्बादी रोकने को लेकर ग्रामीणों में नई चेतना आई है। गर्मी के मौसम में जलस्रोतों की स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विभाग और समुदाय मिलकर चेक डैम, वर्षा जल संचयन (Source Sustainability) और स्रोत सुदृढ़ीकरण जैसे कार्यों पर भी निरंतर कार्य कर रहे हैं।

निष्कर्ष

लातेहार की यह यात्रा इस बात का प्रमाण है कि जब सुशासन, सहभागिता और संकल्प एक साथ आते हैं, तो सबसे कठिन परिस्थितियों में भी परिवर्तन संभव है। आज लातेहार केवल एक जिला नहीं, बल्कि एक प्रेरक मॉडल बन चुका है जो यह दिखाता है कि कैसे हर घर जल का सपना साकार किया जा सकता है।

यह कहानी बताती है कि जब सरकार और समाज कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर चलते हैं, तो पानी केवल नल से नहीं बहता वह स्वास्थ्य, सम्मान और भविष्य की आशा भी साथ लेकर आता है।

- प्रतिलिपि संपादन- लोपामुद्रा पांडा,
एनपीएमयू-एनजेजेएम

Review Meeting with State/UTs

Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS chaired a review meeting with State/ UTs on 04.12.2025 to assess the progress and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. During the meeting, Secretary emphasized that the O&M policy must be formally announced and implemented at the time of village infrastructure handover.

While addressing the State/UTs he said *"VWSCs should be legally empowered to run the scheme on a sustained basis, collect user/service charges for providing drinking water, and deposit these in their own accounts to fund first-level repair and maintenance."*

He also directed States to ensure tripartite agreements for defining roles & responsibilities for the next 05 years. A clear message was conveyed that JJM stands for zero corruption & full transparency, and trust must be built that, mission is delivering safe water to each household.

Further, he stressed the importance of WQ surveillance, use of FTKs, training of women volunteers, setting up NABL labs, and following standard protocols for testing. Secretary also reiterated that O&M must be institutionalized, & progress on HGJ certification needs improvement.

AS&MD-NJJM reviewed the progress, pending ATRs, response to the 3rd CS Conference, notification of O&M Policy, overview of commissioning protocols, RPWSS ID creation, upcoming Sujal Gram Samvad, monitoring mechanisms through TPIAs, and multi-dimensional training under NJMP.

The meeting was attended by MDs, E-In-C, from State/UTs and field functionaries through VC, along with officials from NJJM and NPMU.

- Edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Figure 71: Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS addressing in review meeting with State/UTs | Source: NJJM

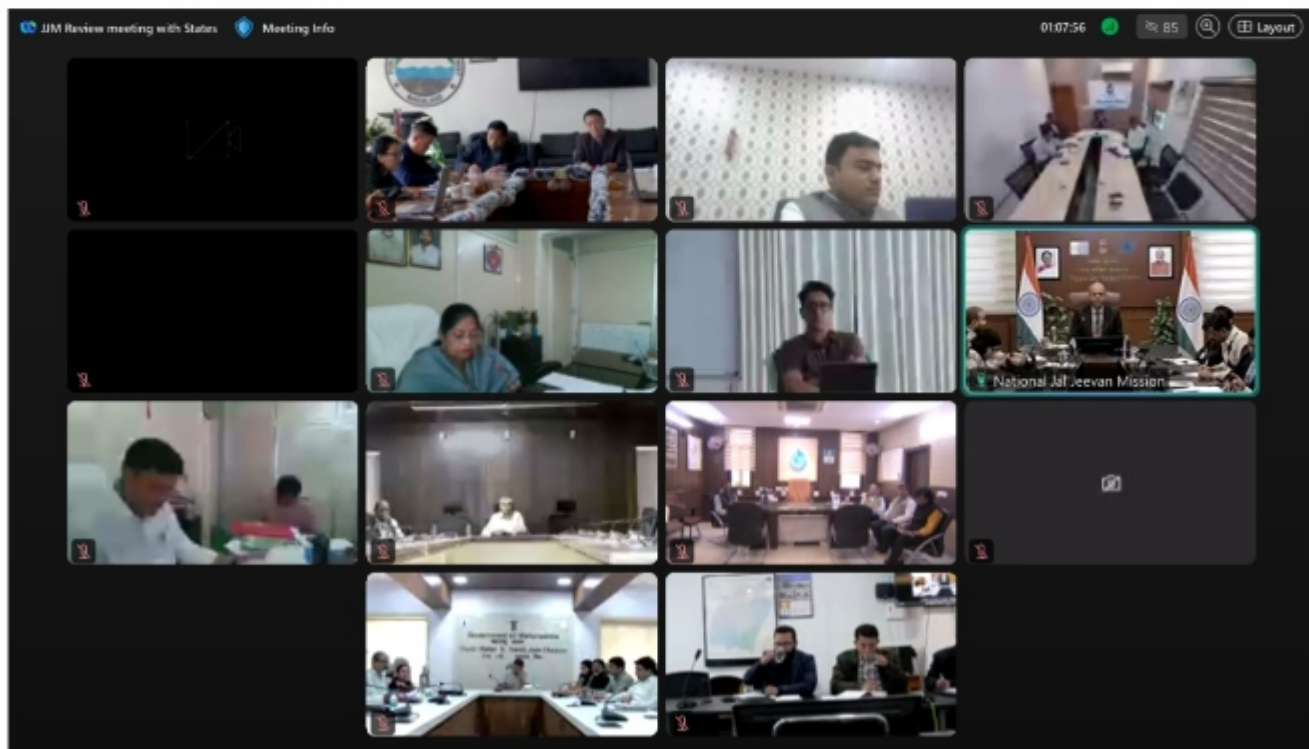


Figure 72: State/UTs representatives attended virtually in the review meeting | Source: NJJM





Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Samvad



Follow, like and subscribe



Jal Jeevan Mission, India



@jaljeevan_



Jal Jeevan Mission



@jaljeevanmission



jjm.gov.in



Jal Jeevan Mission

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