Jal Jeevan Samvad

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Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

Ministerial level policy dialogue & District/ Village Dialogues Series

Articles by Director, NJJM and DC/ DMs of 7 districts

Contents

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

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

Design: Arif Khan

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National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi - 110 003
E-mail: rnd-ddws@gov.in

Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

C R Patil
Union Minister of Jal Shakti

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्रभाई मोदी जी के विजन 'हर घर जल' को हम केवल पाइपलाइन बिछाने तक सीमित नहीं रख रहे, बल्कि जल की शुद्धता को भी सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं।

*यह गर्व का विषय है कि **Jal Jeevan Mission** के तहत देश की **24.8** लाख से अधिक बहनों को पानी की गुणवत्ता जांचने की ट्रेनिंग दी गई है। आज हमारी माताएं-बहनें स्वयं 'फील्ड टेस्ट किट' के माध्यम से जल के स्तर और उसकी शुद्धता की प्रहरी बनी हैं। जब नारी शक्ति सशक्त होती है, तभी राष्ट्र का स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षित होता है।*

- Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti
9th February, 2026

Minister of States, Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

V. Somanna
Minister of States for Jal Shakti

...As India marches resolutely towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the nation is not merely building infrastructure, but shaping its future, a sentiment aptly articulated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji.

Recognising excellence across critical sectors such as roads, railways, aviation, ports, urban transport, water infrastructure and power...

- Remarks mentioned on social media (Facebook)
24th Febraury, 2026

Foreword

Jal Jeevan Mission continues its steady progression into a phase where sustainability and service delivery define success. February 2026 reflects this evolution clearly, as efforts across the country increasingly focus on strengthening institutions, empowering communities, and ensuring that drinking water systems function reliably over time.

India's rural water supply landscape has reached a stage where physical infrastructure, though essential, is no longer the sole determinant of outcomes. The emphasis is now equally on local ownership, transparent governance, and accountability mechanisms that ensure every created asset delivers sustained public value.

As a major chunk of rural water supply systems are completed and many are near to completion across the country, the emphasis is now firmly on ensuring that these water supply assets consistently deliver safe, adequate and regular drinking water to every rural household. This transition reflects the Mission's evolution into a programme centred on institutions, partnerships and people, rather than assets alone.

The engagements during the month captured this evolving narrative. The Fourth Sujal Gram Samvad reaffirmed the importance of listening to Gram Panchayats and communities, highlighting how ownership, women's participation and transparency are shaping durable service delivery at the grassroots. Similarly, the Sixth District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad provided a national snapshot of how districts are responding to this shift by strengthening governance mechanisms and encouraging community stewardship.

Capacity building emerged as another defining theme. The national Training of Master Trainers on the Sujalam Bharat Digital Platform and District Technical Units (DTUs) reflects the Mission's growing reliance on digital public infrastructure and systematic technical support to sustain services in the long run.

Looking ahead, the nationwide Jal Mahotsav, to be celebrated from 8th March to 22nd March 2026, beginning on International Women's Day and culminating on World Water Day, seeks to deepen the societal connect with water. By celebrating water as a shared responsibility and cultural value, Jal Mahotsav reinforces that sustainability is ultimately rooted in collective behaviour.

The developments captured in this issue reflect the Mission's onward journey; from infrastructure to institutions, from targets to trust, and from delivery to durability. With empowered districts and confident Gram Panchayats, Jal Jeevan Mission continues steadily towards ensuring sustainable drinking water services for generations to come.

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

Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

The month of February 2026 provided important operational insights into how the Mission is being internalised across districts and Gram Panchayats as it moves deeper into its sustainability phase. A key focus during the month was reinforcing district-level leadership and accountability. The Sixth District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad brought together district administrations from across States to review progress beyond coverage indicators. The discussions highlighted that sustaining functionality requires regular district reviews, active DWSM, strong engineering backstopping, Jan Bhagidari and consistent monitoring of service delivery parameters such as supply hours, water quality and grievance redressal.

Complementing this, significant emphasis was placed on technical and digital capacity strengthening. The national ToTs on the Sujalam Bharat digital platform and District Technical Units (DTUs) marked a critical step in institutionalising data-driven governance. Accurate geo-tagging of schemes and assets, creation of unified digital records, and regular data updates are essential prerequisites for informed planning, financial support and preventive maintenance. States and districts were categorically advised that completeness and accuracy of data entry is a core responsibility under the Mission.

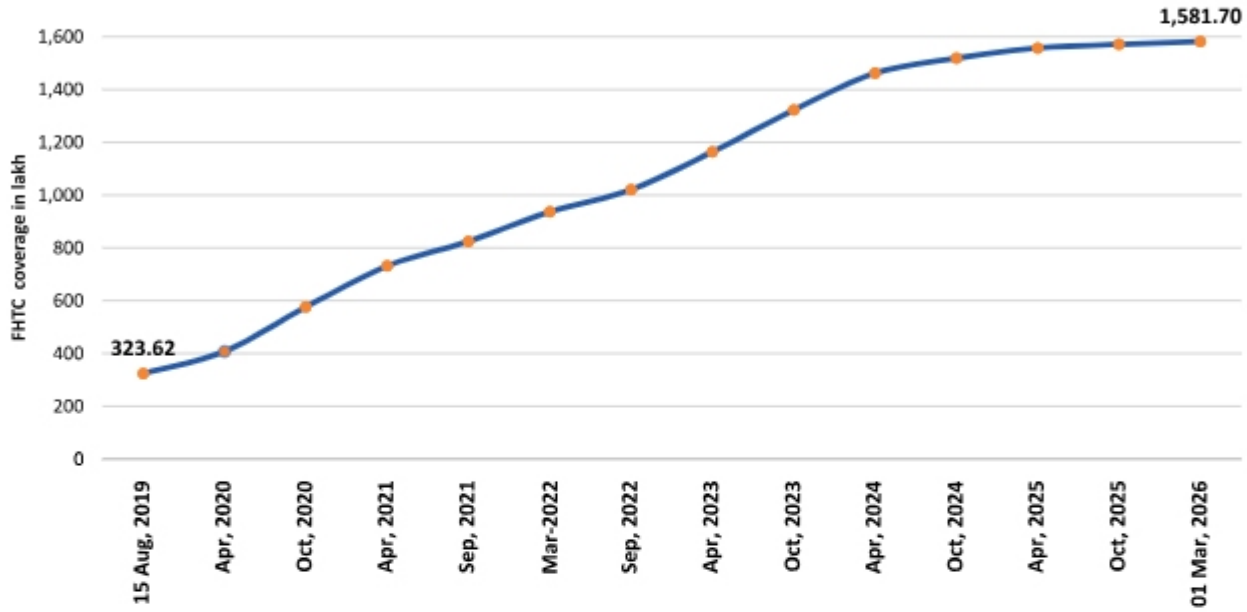
Community engagement platforms continued to play an equally vital role. The Fourth Sujal Gram Samvad reaffirmed that sustainable drinking water services depend on empowered Gram Panchayats and informed citizens. Interactions with Panchayat representatives and community members demonstrated the positive impact of formal scheme handover through Jal Arpan, adoption of user charges approved by Gram Sabhas, training of women in water quality testing, and transparent self-assessment via Jal Seva Aankalan that enabled open discussion on challenges, allowing for timely course correction.

In this context, the forthcoming national campaign Jal Mahotsav from 8th to 22nd March 2026 assumes particular importance. Districts and Gram Panchayats are encouraged to use this period as a window to complete asset transfers, strengthen O&M arrangements, conduct water quality drives, and reinforce community ownership. Jal Mahotsav is envisioned not as a ceremonial event, but as a means to institutionalise sustainable water practices and deepen public participation.

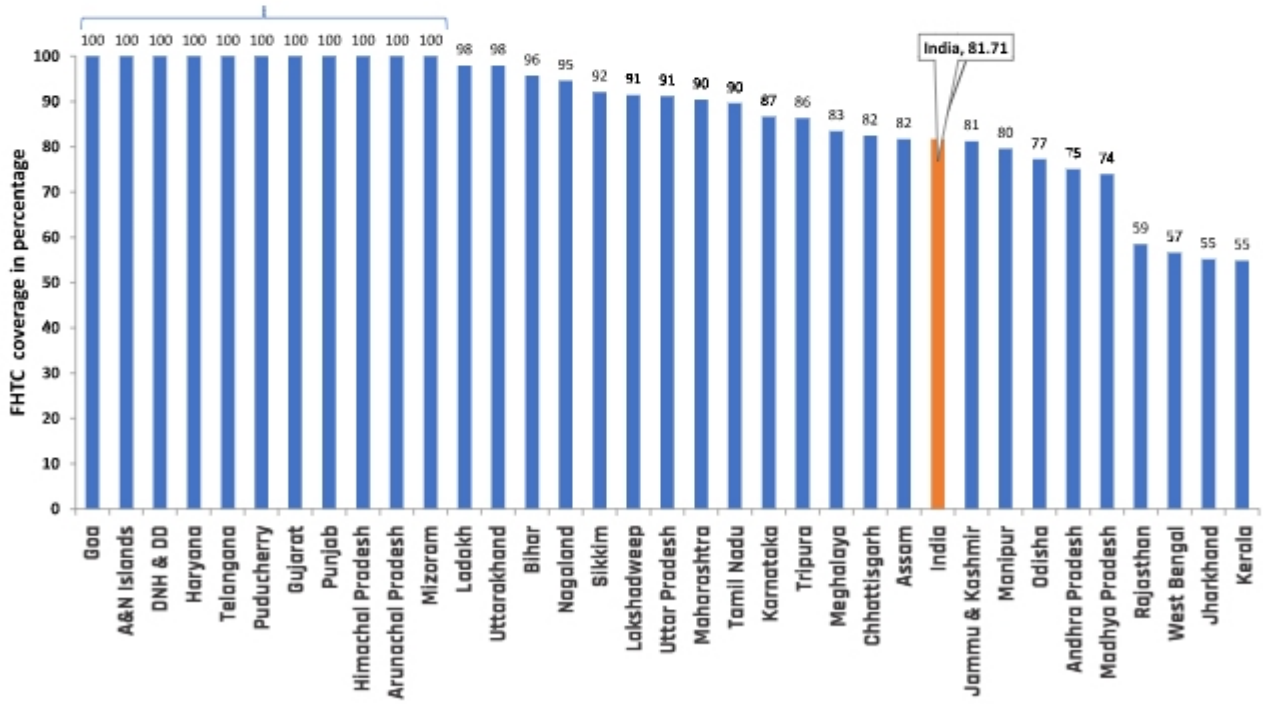
As the Mission progresses in its extended timeline, priorities are unambiguous: functionality, source sustainability, financial discipline, transparency, and strong local institutions. With committed district leadership and active community participation, the Mission will ensure that rural drinking water systems continue to serve households with reliability, safety and dignity.

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

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 28.02.2026)



Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 28.02.2026)



- Graphical representation by Arpan De Sarkar, NPMU-NJJM

As on 28th February, 2026

Source: JJM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

Total number of households (HHs)	Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019	Households with tap water connections as on date
19,35,87,332	3,23,62,838 (16.72%)	+2,735 15,81,70,479 (81.70%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,58,07,641 (78.03%)

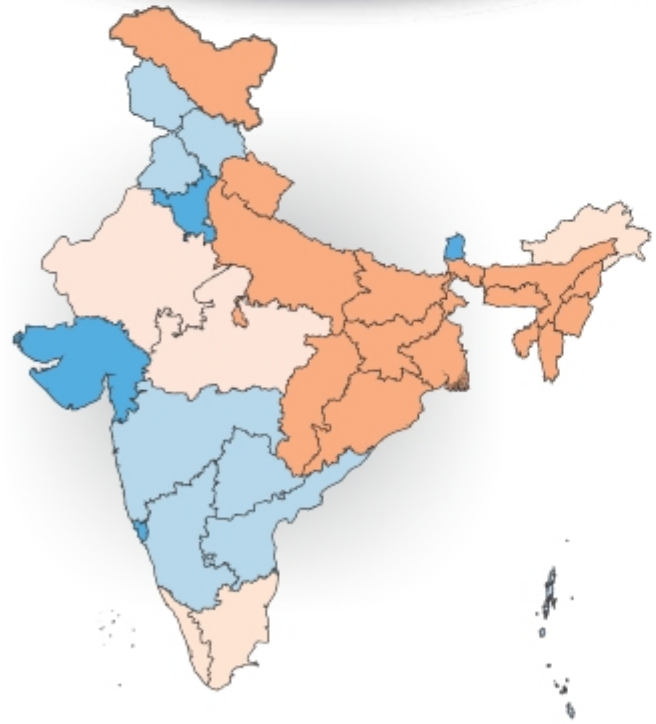
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

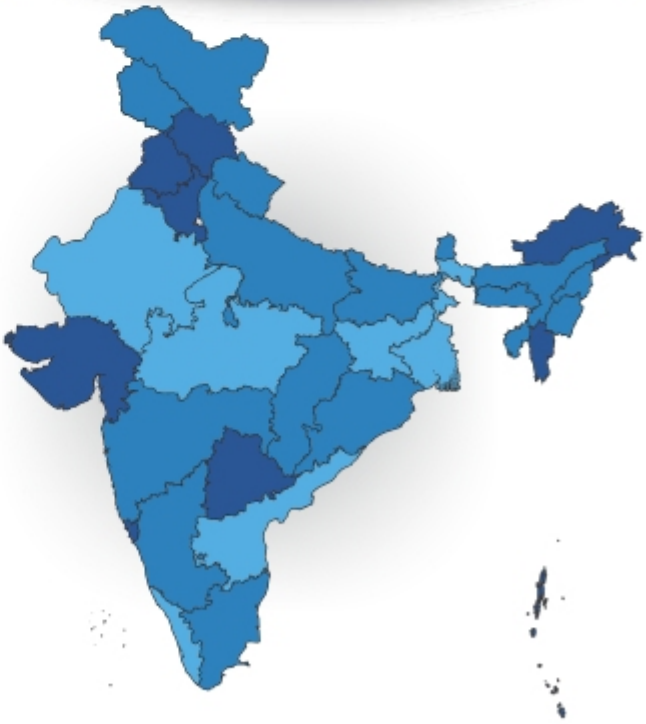
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat

100% FHTC Districts	100% FHTC Blocks	100% FHTC Panchayats	100% FHTC Villages
192	1,922	1,28,612	2,74,115

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 28th February, 2026



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

Sujal Gram Samvad: Strengthening Community Ownership through dialogue in local language

– Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-N.J.JM

The fourth edition of Sujal Gram Samvad held on 24th Februasry, 2026 was, organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to participatory water governance and community-led service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Bringing together Gram Panchayat representatives, Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) members, women SHGs, frontline workers, State Mission Directors, District Collectors, and officials from across States and Union Territories, the virtual platform witnessed participation of nearly 2,000 attendees, alongside extensive community gatherings at Gram Panchayat headquarters.

But beyond numbers, the Samvad reflected something deeper i.e the transition of Jal Jeevan Mission from infrastructure creation to sustainable service delivery.

From Infrastructure to Sustainability: A New Priority

In his opening remarks, **Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS**, underscored a pivotal shift in focus. While the Mission has successfully built rural drinking water infrastructure at an unprecedented scale, the most critical phase now lies ahead ensuring sustainability.

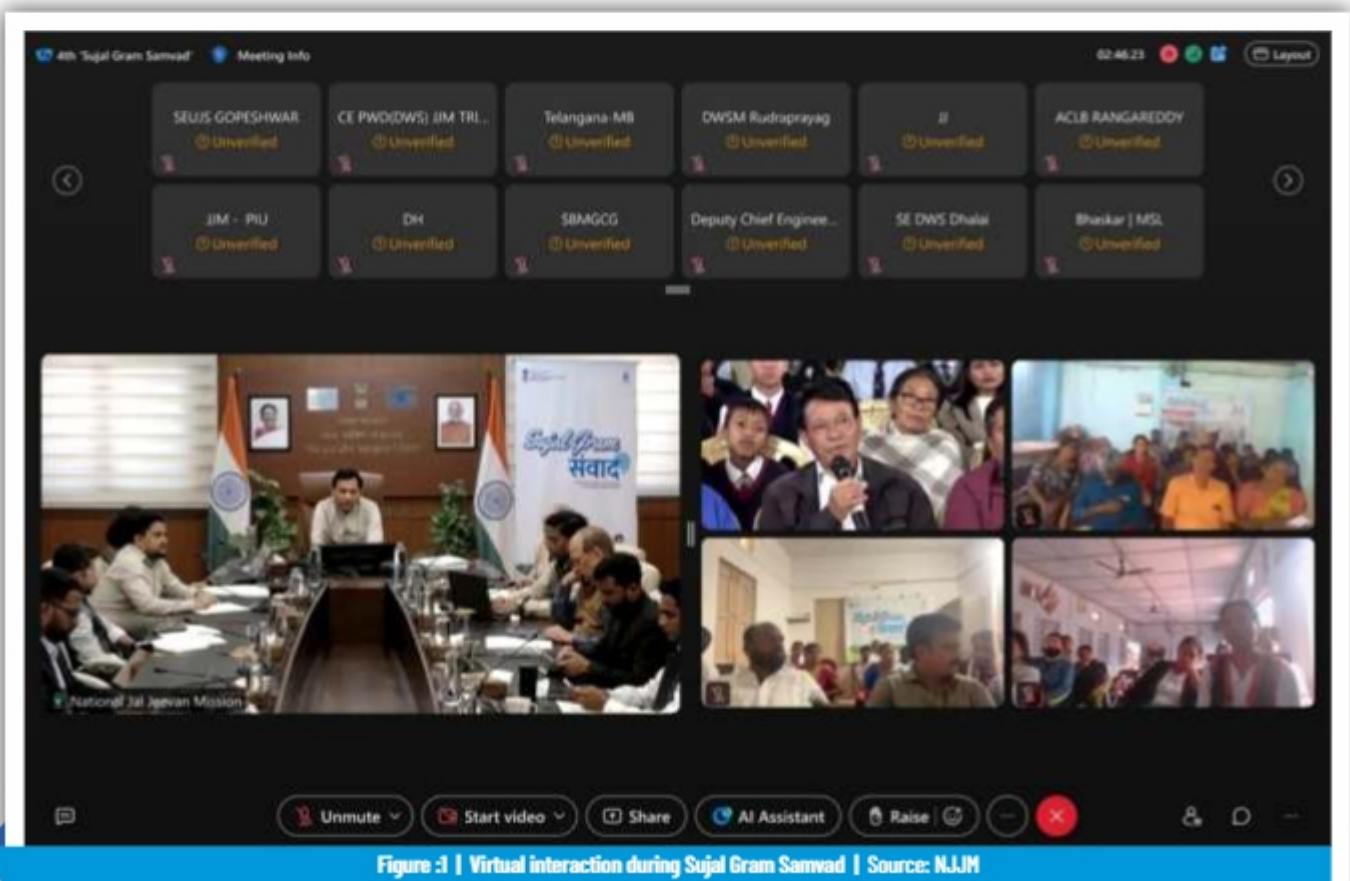


Figure :1 | Virtual interaction during Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: N.J.JM

Figure :2 | Opening remark by Secretary, DDWS during Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM

Once the physical infrastructure is created, the real responsibility begins viz. regular, reliable, and safe water supply to every household through robust operation and maintenance (O&M) systems.

He emphasized that water supply management is fundamentally a local responsibility. Gram Panchayats and VWSCs must take ownership of the systems. Moving forward, greater emphasis will be placed on transferring water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats to institutionalize community-led governance.

To support this transition, District Technical Units (DTUs) and technical support systems will be strengthened.

Transparency and accountability were highlighted through the Jal Seva Aankalan framework, an annual self-assessment exercise where Gram Panchayats present water service details before the Gram Sabha. A significant number of Panchayats have already completed this exercise, with the remaining encouraged to do so in the coming months.

He also announced the nationwide Jal Mahotsav (8–22 March), beginning on International Women's Day and culminating on World Water Day, focusing on:

- Jal Arpan Diwas (formal handover of drinking water assets to GP)
- Water quality monitoring
- Institutional capacity strengthening
- Community participation for safe drinking water

Beyond Showcasing Success: A Platform for Honest Dialogue

In his concluding remarks, **Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS & MD, NJJM**, appreciated the detailed presentations and participatory approaches adopted by the Panchayats. He emphasized that Sujal Gram Samvad is not merely a platform to showcase good practices. It is equally a space to openly discuss challenges so they can be collectively addressed and strengthened through coordinated action.

He encouraged active participation in the upcoming Jal Mahotsav, urging Panchayats to use the occasion to institutionalize service delivery, formalize asset transfers, and strengthen water quality monitoring systems.

The way forward lies in replication, bringing more Panchayats on board and scaling transparent, accountable, and community-driven models across the country.

The Emerging Narrative

The fourth edition of Sujal Gram Samvad demonstrated that:

- Infrastructure is only the beginning
- Sustainability depends on local ownership
- Women are central to water governance
- User contributions enhance accountability
- Transparency through Jal Seva Aankalan builds trust
- Technology can strengthen monitoring

- Community participation ensures long-term viability

As India moves into the sustainability phase of Jal Jeevan Mission, the true measure of success will not only be in tap connections provided, but in taps that continue to flow reliably, safely, and sustainably for generations.

Sujal Gram Samvad has shown that the foundation for that future is already being built one Gram Panchayat at a time.

Figure :4 | Virtual interaction during Sujal Gram Samvad | Source: NJJM

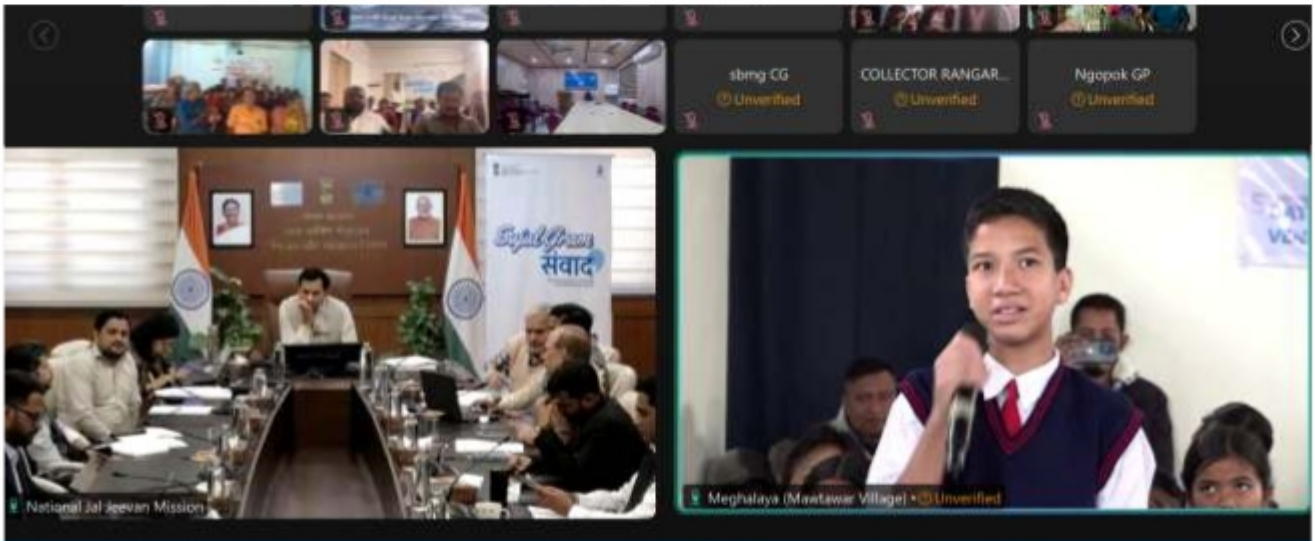


Figure :5 | A school student sharing his experience on access to tap water in school | Source: NJJM

Tripura

West Damcherra GP, North Tripura District, Tripura

- Reduced diarrhoea cases and waterborne diseases
- Leakages resolved swiftly after Jal Seva Aankalan
- Effective greywater management via soak pits
- Ease of living in hilly terrain with water supply

The Samvad began with an interaction with the community in West Damcherra, North Tripura, where VWSC members, ASHA workers, AWWs, pump operators, FTK-trained women, and other community representatives shared their experiences in Bengali. They highlighted that before JJM, they relied on unfiltered sources like hill streams and seasonal water bodies, leading to scarcity and waterborne diseases.

The community said, the provision of household tap connections under JJM, has significantly improved their daily life, particularly for women who no longer need to travel long distances to fetch water. Regular water supply, along with frequent water quality testing, has led to a **noticeable reduction in diarrhoea and related illnesses among children**.

The community also shared that the **Jal Seva Aankalan** has been completed, where pipeline leakages were addressed promptly by the technical team, with normal water supply restored without delay, reflecting the efficiency of the local maintenance and monitoring system. They added that **greywater is being managed effectively through household and community soak pits**, contributing to a cleaner village environment.

Figure :6 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

Puducherry

Sederapet GP, Puducherry District, Puducherry

- 100% FHTCs covering 6,700 population
- Robust overhead tank and borewell system
- Dedicated pump operators
- Active grievance redressal mechanism

The community members of Sederapet, spoke in **Tamil** with DDWS official and shared that it has achieved **100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)**, ensuring assured quality water supply to all **1,248 households**, covering a population of nearly **6,700**. The drinking water supply system is fully operational and functioning efficiently.

Figure :7 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

The Panchayat has established a robust water infrastructure comprising a **5,000-litre overhead tank**, **seven borewells**, and **24 functional distribution connections**, which are monitored regularly to ensure uninterrupted service. Daily operations are managed by designated pump operators at the Panchayat level.

Periodic water quality testing is carried out to ensure that all households receive safe and potable drinking water. A responsive grievance-redressal mechanism is also in place.

Telangana

Pulimamidi GP, Rangareddy District, Telangana

- 100% coverage including schools & Anganwadis
- Jal Arpan & Jal Seva Aankalan completed
- Functional hygiene facilities in institutions
- Regular field water testing for quality

During the interaction with DDWS officials, villagers from **Pulimamidi, Telangana**, speaking in the local Telugu dialect, shared that the Gram Panchayat has achieved **100% tap water coverage** across all households, schools, and Anganwadi Centres, with regular supply of safe and quality drinking water. They informed that both **Jal Arpan** and **Jal Seva Aankalan** activities have been completed in the village, and preparations are underway

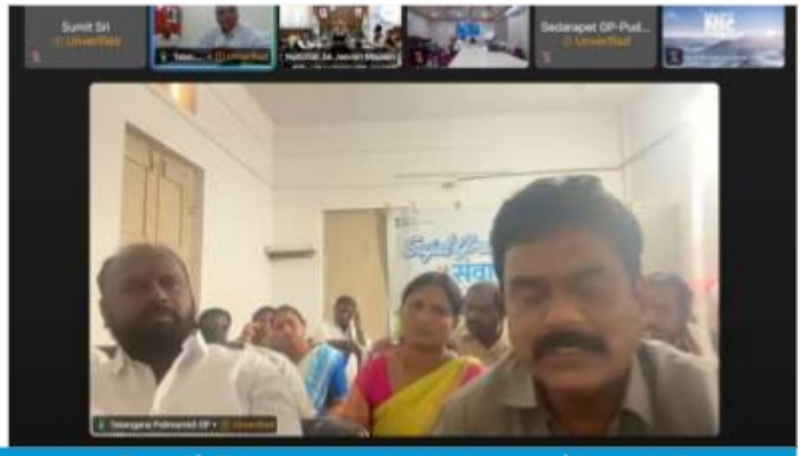


Figure :8 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

to conduct the Jal Arpan ceremony during the forthcoming **Jal Mahotsav**. The community also highlighted that schools and Anganwadi Centres are equipped with tap connections in toilets and handwashing stations, ensuring better hygiene facilities for children. Regular **field-level water quality testing** is being carried out to ensure that the water supplied remains potable and safe for all.

Arunachal Pradesh

Ngopok Pokdum GP, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh

- 24×7 gravity-based water supply
- Water User tariff system supporting O&M
- Strong source protection & penalty norms
- Har Ghar Jal certified Panchayat

Community from Ngopok shared in local **Adi language** with DoWR official, and shared works under JJM have been fully completed, enabling clean and potable drinking water to all 330 households across five habitations through a **gravity-based water supply system**. Ngopok has become the **first Panchayat in the district to ensure regular and reliable water supply 24X7**. The Panchayat highlighted strong community-led operation and maintenance, with a well-functioning VWSC, trained "Nal Jal Mitras", and ten skilled women handling routine water quality testing. The village is also **Har Ghar Jal certified**.

Figure :9 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

The community informed that regular IEC activities, user charge collection with proper registers, and door-to-door awareness have ensured sustainability of the water system. A monthly tariff of ₹50 per household, approved in the Gram Sabha and ₹200 for commercial establishments supports O&M needs. Community participation remains high, with involvement in *Swachhata Shramdaan*, upkeep of storage tanks, and protection of source areas. Strict penalties for littering near the Water Treatment Plant and routine source visits reflect the Panchayat's commitment to safeguarding the water system and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Meghalaya

Mawtawar GP, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya

- Gravity-based supply in high-altitude region
- 1–3 hours daily time saved for women
- Trained women conducts water quality testing using FTK
- Strong VWSC-led grievance

Speaking in English Sarpanch of Mawtawar shared that providing water in hilly and high-altitude regions had long been considered extremely challenging. Prior to JJM, villagers particularly women spent 1-3 hours daily fetching water from rivers and wells, often standing in long queues during dry seasons. With the implementation of JJM, elevated storage tanks have been constructed to facilitate **gravity-based distribution**, enabling regular tap water supply to every household. The community noted substantial improvements in daily life, including **reduced physical burden, time savings and greater dignity and convenience**, especially for women.

The village leadership highlighted that **water quality assurance** has become an integral part of service delivery. **Water is tested at least three times a year** by trained four women, ASHAs and AWW. The VWSC plays a proactive role in distribution management, quality monitoring, awareness campaigns and grievance redressal. Minor issues such as leakages are resolved locally, while major concerns are promptly reported to the PHED, reflecting strong community ownership and an effective rural water governance system.

Figure :10 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

Kerala

Kunnummal GP, Kozhikode District, Kerala

- 24×7 self-sufficient water supply
- Volunteer-led water quality testing
- WhatsApp-based monitoring system
- Har Ghar Jal certification

From **Kunnummal Grama Panchayat in Kozhikode district, Kerala**, elected representatives and beneficiaries of JJM shared their experiences in Malayalam. They highlighted that before the Mission, the Panchayat relied on tanker water during the summer months. With the implementation of JJM, households now receive **clean drinking water throughout the year**, and the Panchayat has effectively achieved **self-sufficiency with 24×7 water supply**. Community members also informed that the Panchayat has a trained group of local volunteers who carry out **timely water quality testing**, ensuring safety and reliability of the drinking water being supplied.

The *Sub Collector of Kozhikode district* also joined the interaction and explained the **WhatsApp-based monitoring system** being used across the district for tracking water supply and service requirements in real time. He noted that proactive efforts are underway to declare more Panchayats as **Har Ghar Jal-certified Panchayats**, reflecting Kerala's commitment to ensuring universal access to safe drinking water and strengthening local-level service delivery mechanisms.

Figure :11 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: N.JJM

National-level Training of Master Trainers (ToT) on Sujalam Bharat and District Technical Units

– Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-N.J.JM

As India's rural drinking water journey under Jal Jeevan Mission enters a decisive phase, the focus is firmly shifting from rapid infrastructure creation to long-term service delivery, sustainability, and accountability. In this context, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, organised a national-level Training of Master Trainers (ToT) on the Sujalam Bharat Database and Mobile Application along with the District Technical Unit (DTU) framework at SCOPE Complex, New Delhi on 12th February 2026.

The capacity-building programme brought together around 140 PHED engineers, technical experts, and consultants nominated from States and Union Territories. These participants will now serve as Master Trainers, leading cascading trainings at State, district and Gram Panchayat levels, thereby institutionalising digital systems and technical practices essential for the next phase of Jal Jeevan Mission.

From Coverage to Service Delivery: The Next Phase of JJM

With more than 81% of rural households already covered with household tap connections, Jal Jeevan Mission is undergoing a strategic transition. The emphasis is no longer limited to laying pipelines or creating assets; it now centres on standardised operation & maintenance (O&M), performance monitoring, water quality assurance, and uninterrupted service delivery.

Digital governance lies at the heart of this transition. The Sujalam Bharat Database (RPWSS module), its mobile application, and the newly articulated DTU framework together form a cohesive digital-technical ecosystem—one that connects village-level assets with district-level technical intelligence and national-level policy oversight.

Figure :12 | DDWS officials addressing during ToT | Source: N.J.JM

Figure :13 | DDWS technical officials providing during ToT | Source: N.JJM

Sujal Gaon ID: A Digital Public Infrastructure for Rural Water Systems

Setting the context for the workshop, Dr. Ankita Chakravarty, Deputy Secretary, DDWS, underlined that the Sujal Gaon ID is being positioned as a core Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the rural drinking water sector.

Every integrated piped water supply scheme covering sources, treatment units, transmission mains, distribution networks, and service areas is assigned a unique digital identity. This enables:

- End-to-end GIS-based visibility from source to household tap
- Elimination of duplication and ambiguity across habitations and schemes
- Clear linkage between in-village and out-village water transfer systems
- A reliable, transparent, and future-ready national database

Dr. Chakravarty emphasised that clearly defined principles such as mandatory tagging of sources and habitations, non-duplication across IDs, and traceable asset linkages are critical for building trust in digital data. Over time, this database will support asset management, predictive maintenance, performance benchmarking, and evidence-based decision-making, strengthening rural water governance at every level.

Figure :14 | Context setting during ToT by Deputy Secretary, N.JJM | Source: N.JJM

Technical Deep Dive: RPWSS Module and Sujalam Bharat App-Creating Sujal Gaon IDs on the JJM 2.0 Platform

The first technical session focused on the practical creation of Sujal Gaon IDs. Shri Surya Mohan Srivastava, Joint Director, NIC, led a detailed walkthrough of the RPWSS module on the JJM 2.0 dashboard.

Figure :15 | NIC officials providing training | Source: NJJM

Participants were taken through the entire workflow, including:

- Generation of temporary RPWSS IDs
- Geo-tagging of assets through the Sujalam Bharat Mobile Application
- Mapping of in-village and out-village components
- Validation at district and State levels
- Approval and generation of the final Sujal Gaon ID

The session highlighted the importance of accurate geo-locations, complete asset attributes, and seamless integration with the JJM-IMIS database to create a unified digital record of rural water supply systems.

An interactive Q&A followed, with States raising queries on legacy scheme integration, approval workflows, and data protocols each addressed in detail to ensure uniform implementation across the country.

Figure :16 | BISAG team providing training | Source: NJJM

Sujalam Bharat Mobile Application: From Field to Dashboard

The second session focused on the Sujalam Bharat Mobile Application, the primary field-level tool for geo-tagging and documentation.

Shri Nirav Parikh and Shri Arnav Sen from BISAG demonstrated:

- Registration of implementing agencies
- Creation of scheme registries
- Mapping of sources, treatment units, pipelines and household connections
- Role-based access and State User Dashboard features
- End-to-end data submission and validation workflows

The hands-on session reinforced how the app enables real-time, structured, and standardised data capture, forming the backbone of transparent monitoring under Jal Jeevan Mission. States shared their early progress, with many already initiating data entry and geo-tagging—marking a significant step toward a national GIS-linked asset registry.

District Technical Units: Strengthening District-Level Technical Backbone - From Infrastructure Push to Utility-Based Governance

The afternoon session focused on the District Technical Unit (DTU) framework—one of the most significant institutional reforms under the extended phase of Jal Jeevan Mission.

Figure :17 | DDWS official providing training | Source: N.J.J.M

Presenting the framework, Shri Sumit Priyadarshi, Deputy Advisor (PHE & Water Quality), explained that DTUs are envisioned not as control mechanisms, but as technical enablers. Their role is to provide continuous, evidence-based technical support to districts, Gram Panchayats, and Village Water & Sanitation Committees.

As JJM moves from construction to service delivery, DTUs will:

- Generate transparent, logically linked technical data
- Support preventive planning instead of reactive repairs
- Handhold Gram Panchayats and strengthen local capacities
- Reduce downtime and make seasonal disruptions exceptions, not norms

DTUs will function as the technical arm of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM), promoting convergence with PHEDs, water quality laboratories, and expert institutions.

Figure :18 | DDWS official providing training | Source: N.J.J.M

Digital Intelligence and Jal Seva Aankalan

A key responsibility of DTUs is the implementation of Jal Seva Aankalan (JSA)—the Gram Panchayat-led digital assessment of drinking water service delivery. Dr. Ankita Chakravarty informed that inputs had already been received from nearly 60% of Gram Panchayats, and the findings would provide critical insights for strengthening service frameworks.

Shri Absar Khan, Team Leader, NPMU-PHE, elaborated on the DTU role in JSA and walked participants through the assessment format. The framework also encourages adoption of advanced tools such as Digital Twins, predictive analytics, and preventive maintenance systems, bringing utility-style professionalism to rural water supply management.

Policy Direction and Institutional Accountability

Addressing the participants, Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, highlighted the Government's commitment to ensuring that no habitation is left behind in India's digital water transformation. She noted that every habitation will be assigned a unique digital identity linked with LGD codes forming the 'Mother ID' for Sujal Gaon IDs.

This integration will enable high-performance, digital twin-based simulations at State and district levels, empowering engineers with cutting-edge tools and significantly enhancing transparency and operational efficiency.

Clear Accountability at District Level

In his closing remarks, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, DDWS, emphasised

Figure :19 | Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS clarifying doubts during Q&A | Source: NJJM

that the district-level PHE setup will function as the DTU, reporting directly to the District Collector. DTU performance and drinking water service delivery will be regularly reviewed in monthly district meetings.

He stressed that accurate and timely data entry in the Sujalam Bharat database is non-negotiable, as central financial support is linked to comprehensive digital mapping of schemes. Calling for full cooperation from States, he urged that implementation challenges be promptly flagged for resolution.

Shri Soan also asked all Master Trainers to prepare and share schedules for State-level cascading trainings, with at least one training to be conducted in February at State, district, and Gram Panchayat levels.

Toward Viksit Bharat 2047

The Training of Master Trainers marked a critical milestone in institutionalising digital water governance under Jal Jeevan Mission. By integrating Sujal Gaon IDs, the Sujalam Bharat digital platform, and District Technical Units, DDWS is laying the foundation for a service-oriented, transparent, and resilient rural drinking water ecosystem.

As India advances toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, these reforms signal a decisive shift—from building infrastructure to delivering reliable services, from fragmented data to unified digital intelligence, and from short-term fixes to long-term sustainability. Through empowered districts, informed Gram Panchayats, and robust digital public infrastructure, Jal Jeevan Mission continues to redefine how water governance is practised across rural India.

Figure :20 | Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, DDWS delivering closing remarks | Source: NJJM

The Sixth Edition of District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad

– Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-N.J.J.M

From Infrastructure to Institutions: Deepening Community Ownership under Jal Jeevan Mission

India's rural water landscape is undergoing a decisive transformation. What began in 2019 as an ambitious infrastructure mission to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household is now evolving into a deeper institutional reform one that prioritises sustainability, service quality, accountability, and community ownership.

The 6th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, was organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, on 17th February 2026, reflected this pivotal shift. The Samvad brought together District Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, State Mission Directors, and senior officials from DDWS to deliberate not only on coverage achievements but on ensuring long-term functionality and public trust in rural water supply systems.

The Samvad was more than just a meeting, it was a dialogue, a convergence of policy vision and field-level innovation.

The session, chaired by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, highlighted the Mission's evolution over six years. It has shifted from rapid infrastructure rollout to focusing on sustained service delivery, now transitioning to community-owned and managed rural water services, key to long-term functionality and quality.

Figure :21 | Digital participation by DWSM/DCs/DMs etc. | Source: N.J.J.M

In his address, Shri Meena highlighted three defining shifts,

I. **From Asset Creation to Assured Services** - The early years focused on laying pipelines, building treatment plants, and creating physical assets. The current phase emphasises ensuring that every tap delivers safe, adequate, and regular water not just today, but for decades.

ii. **From Departmental Management to Community Ownership** - Schemes must now be systematically handed over to Gram Panchayats, in accordance with constitutional provisions. Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) and Pani Samitis are to function as public utilities at the grassroots.

iii. **From Central Monitoring to Decentralised Accountability** - Digital dashboards, financial reconciliation, and transparent reporting mechanisms are being strengthened to ensure that governance is data-driven and citizen-responsive.

He also outlined priorities in the extension phase, saturation of single-village schemes, expansion

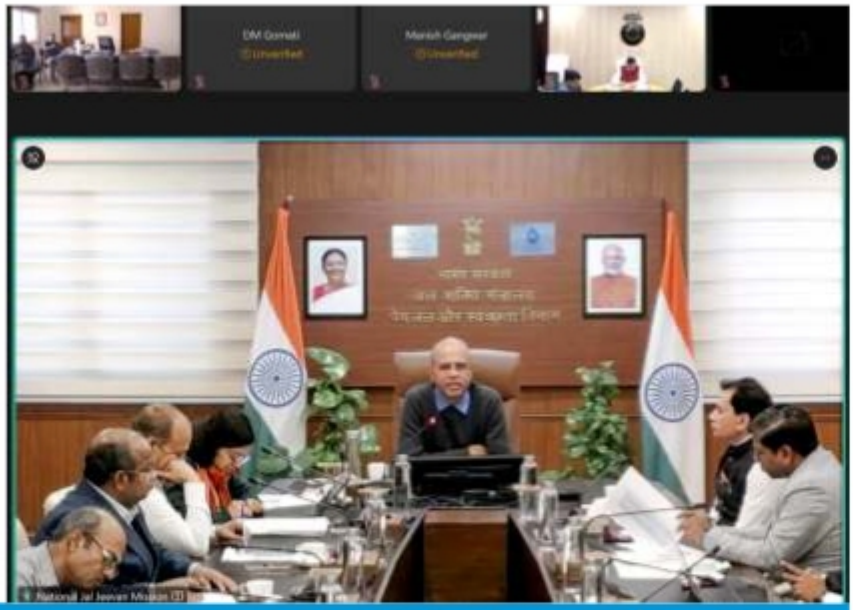


Figure :22 | Address by Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS | Source: NJJM

of solar-based infrastructure, comprehensive asset mapping through PM Gati Shakti, and creation of a unified scheme database to enhance transparency and efficiency.

His message was clear: this phase demands leadership, discipline, and deeper community engagement.

DDWS Presentation on Jal Utsav/ Jal Mahotsav: Water as Culture, Not Just Commodity

A highlight of the Samvad was the detailed presentation on Jal Utsav–Jal Mahotsav by Shri Y.K. Singh, Director, NJJM. The initiative reimagines water governance not as a technical exercise alone, but as a cultural movement.

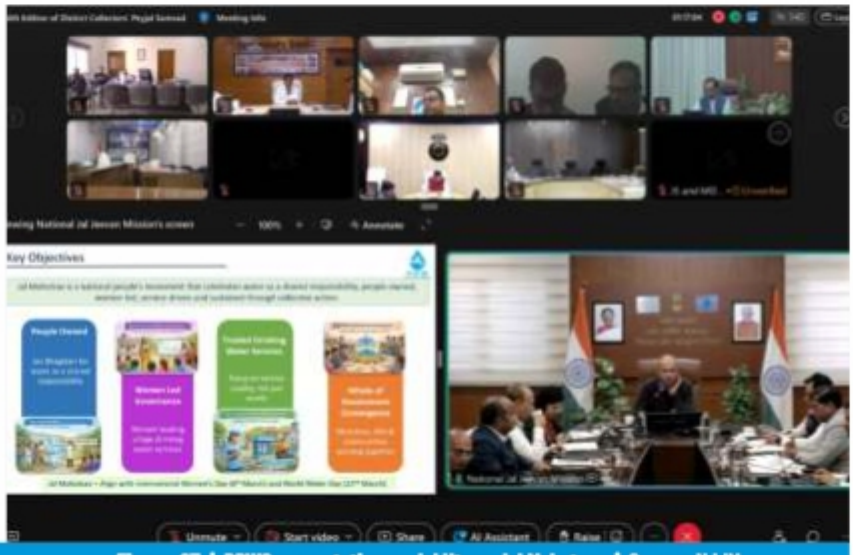


Figure :23 | DDWS presentation on Jal Utsav-Jal Mahotsav | Source: NJJM

Jal Utsav is structured across three levels:

i. Jal Mahotsav at the national level - (8–22 March), coinciding with International Women's Day and culminating on World Water Day

ii. Rajya Jal Utsav at the State/UT level, and

iii. Lok Jal Utsav at the Gram Panchayat level.

The philosophy behind Jal Utsav is profound. Water conservation, sustainable use, and responsible consumption must be embedded in local customs, seasonal cycles, and cultural identity. Gram Panchayats are encouraged to prepare their own Lok Jal Utsav calendars, integrating traditional practices, fairs, competitions, awareness drives, and youth engagement.

Importantly, Jal Utsav is not a centrally imposed template. It is a decentralised celebration designed to awaken pride and collective responsibility for water resources. This approach signals a deeper understanding: sustainability cannot be engineered alone it must be internalised socially.

District Leadership: Translating Policy into Practice

Across India's diverse geography, districts are innovating to address local challenges. The Samvad showcased how leadership at the cutting edge makes the difference. The sixth DCPS platforms listens 7 such presentations made by DC/ DMs.

i. Gangtok, Sikkim

Shri Tushar G Nikhare, District Magistrate highlighted intensive efforts on water source rejuvena-

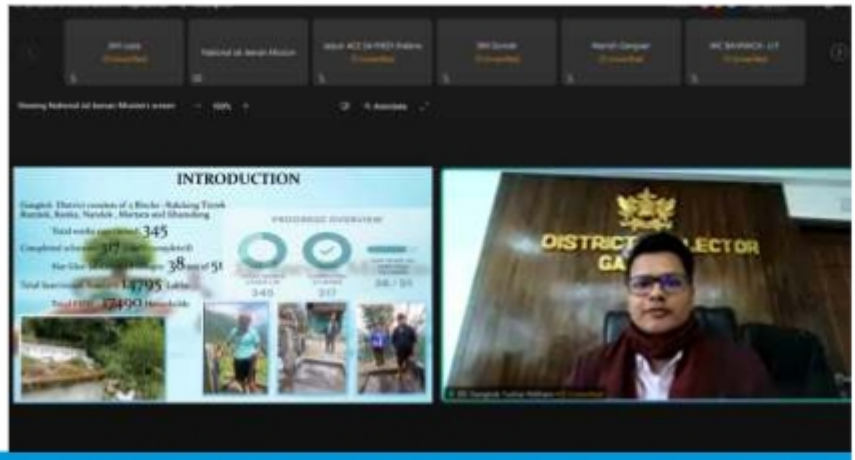


Figure :24 | Shri Tushar G Nikhare, District Magistrate, Gangtok, Sikkim making presentation | Source: NJJM

tion, especially through Dhara Vikas, where recharge pits, trenches, and ponds are helping revive stressed springs. The district has leveraged 15th Finance Commission convergence, strengthened source development, and introduced a monitoring system for quick leak and damage reporting. He shared that Gangtok is promoting community-led O&M through trained barefoot technicians, VWSC involvement and women's participation, supported by sensitisation campaigns. The Upper Singbel success story demonstrated how augmentation and community engagement restored a previously failing scheme, ensuring reliable tap connections and easing the burden on women and children. Going forward, the district aims to scale Dhara Vikas, strengthen O&M systems, and deepen community ownership to ensure sustained rural water supply.

ii. North Goa, Goa

Shri Ankit Yadav, District Collector & Magistrate **presented** the district's technology-enabled model for inclusive drinking water service delivery. Goa has achieved 100% household access to safe drinking water and was declared *Har Ghar Jal* in October 2020. The district provides metered functional tap connections to every household, ensuring uniform coverage across rural and urban areas. North Goa has adopted fully digital, real-time billing supported by QR-code enabled payments. North Goa is now transitioning toward a Smart Water Utility, introducing IoT-based real-time monitoring, SCADA integration for WTPs and STPs, and a unified mobile application offering citizen-centric services such as billing, leak reporting, new connections, and grievance redressal. These initiatives underscore the district's focus on modern, efficient, and accessible water governance.

Figure :25 | Shri Ankit Yadav, District Collector & Magistrate, North Goa, Goa making presentation | Source: NJJM

iii. Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Akshay Tripathi, District Collector, highlighted strong institutional mechanisms led by DWSM, including third-party inspections, lab and field water testing, digital dashboards, and regular review meetings to ensure timely completion and quality assurance. The IEC-driven community engagement, with school WASH activities, village-level awareness sessions, and women-led FTK testing to strengthen behavioural change and water quality vigilance. The district has also institutionalized structured protocols for village-level handover, including joint verification, asset documentation, and capacity building of GPs and VWSCs for O&M.

The district-level Call Centre for water supply monitoring, functions as a single-point grievance platform and enables real-time oversight of supply hours, water quality complaints, and leakages. The district is also integrating IoT-based sensors, smart flow meters, chlorine-residual sensors, and pressure

Figure :26 | Shri Akshay Tripathi, District Collector, Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh making presentation | Source: NJJM

Figure :27 | Shri Ravi Prakash, District Magistrate, Nawada, Bihar making presentation | Source: NJJM

loggers, supported through SCADA-linked dashboards for continuous monitoring.

iv. Nawada, Bihar

Shri Ravi Prakash, District Magistrate, emphasized the use of Peyjal App for real-time monitoring of water supply, leak alerts, and quality testing updates, enabling close supervision of scheme functionality across villages. He also shared that Jal Chaupal is conducted monthly as a community platform to discuss tap connections, water quality, and usage practices, improving participation and awareness. Through the Rajouli Multi-Village Surface Water Supply Scheme, households in fluoride-on contaminated groundwater and improving health outcomes. Strengthened water-quality surveillance, FTK testing in all Panchayats, and proactive repair mechanisms have further improved service reliability and public confidence.

v. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Shri Pratap Singh, District Collector shared that the district is prioritising source sustainability through measures such as rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge structures, and conjunctive use of canal and groundwater to address its arid conditions. Village-level storage capacity is being increased to ensure buffer supply in water-stressed periods. He said that traditional Tankas are being revived and expanded through dovetailing with Finance Commission grants and VB–G RAM G, strengthening community-owned water harvesting systems. VWSC-led monitoring, leakage control, and groundwater awareness activities further support long-term water security in the district.

vi. Longding, Arunachal Pradesh

Shri Kunal Yadav, Deputy Commissioner talked about the district's strong focus on source sustenance through extensive rainwater recharge pit construction at village catchment areas under convergence with 14th and 15th Finance Commission funds, with villagers

Figure :28 | Shri Pratap Singh, District Collector, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan making presentation | Source: NJJM

Figure :29 | Shri Kunal Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Longding, Arunachal Pradesh making presentation | Source: N.J.J.M

voluntarily identifying and protecting catchment zones under the state's Drinking Water Catchment Areas Act. Live exhibitions and IEC campaigns on catchment protection and water recharge have helped reinforce community awareness. In villages such as Kaimoi, competitions among colonieshave significantly strengthened community ownership of O&M, tariff collection, and upkeep of water supply assets. These locally driven initiatives have not only improved maintenance discipline but also built a sense of pride and stewardship among residents, contributing to the sustainability of water systems.

vii. South Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Smt. Purva Garg, Deputy Commissioner shard the district's strong focus on water security, supported by extensive source-sustainability measures such as desilting reservoirs, cleaning wells, and constructing 29 ponds with a combined capacity of 158.68 ML, along with recharge wells and borewells for long-term FHTC sustenance. The administration actively sources ideas from communities, especially through PRI consultations and DWSM meetings, which have led to solutions such as rejuvenation of local water sources, strengthening of check-weirs, and community-driven catchment protection.

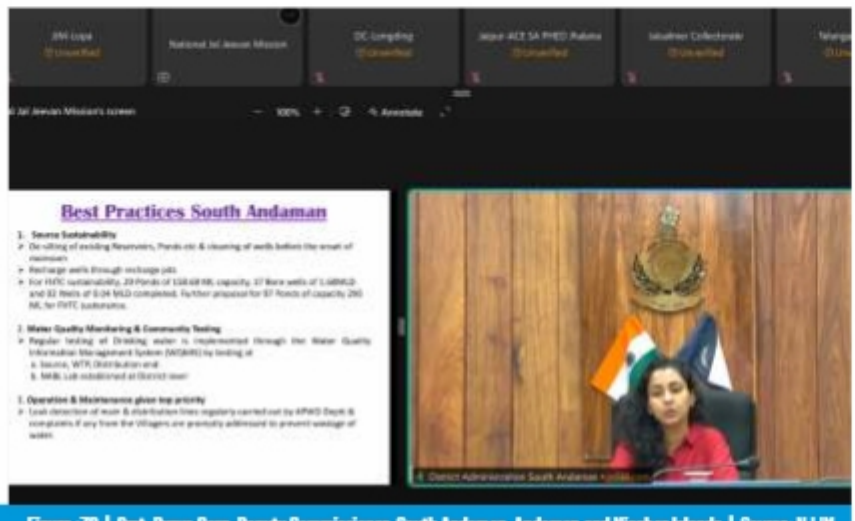


Figure :30 | Smt. Purva Garg, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Source: N.J.J.M

South Andaman has introduced water audits by school students, using a standard assessment format to identify wastage and promote responsible water use. The district also conducts extensive IEC activities viz. awareness rallies, nukkad nataks, print media campaigns, and a unique 'Water Concert' at Marina Park to build public consciousness around conservation. These community-driven and youth-led initiatives have significantly strengthened behavioural change and reinforced long-term water security across the district.

These presentations showcased both achievements and ongoing challenges, underlining the diversity of approaches adopted to accelerate progress under Har Ghar Jal.

Strengthening Accountability and Governance

In his concluding remarks, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS & MD – NJJM, reiterated that district leadership remains the fulcrum of success. He emphasised:

- Regular DWSM meetings
- Active use of district dashboards
- Focus on Jal Seva Aaklan and Jal Arpan
- Capacity building of Panchayat Secretaries
- Strengthening engineering teams and functional District Technical Units

He also informed that NITI Aayog will review JJM progress during visits of Central Prabhari Officers, especially in Aspirational Districts and Blocks. Updated data, clear

Figure :31 | Closing remark by Shri Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS & MD – N.J.J.M | Source: N.J.J.M

action plans, and field-level evidence will be critical.

The Road Ahead: Consolidation with Commitment

The sixth DCPS reaffirmed that Jal Jeevan Mission is not merely about reaching numerical targets. It is about ensuring that every rural household experiences reliable, safe, and dignified water service. The next chapter demands:

- Sustained functionality
- Source sustainability
- Financial transparency
- Behavioural change
- Deepened Jan Bhagidari

When Gram Panchayats manage 24x7 systems, when women Sarpanches lead confidently, when children audit water usage, and when technology enhances transparency rural water governance becomes a shared responsibility.

As the Mission moves forward, the emphasis shifts from expansion to excellence, from coverage to continuity, from schemes to stewardship.

The sixth District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad was not merely a review of progress, it was a reaffirmation of collective resolve. With strong district leadership and empowered communities, the vision of safe, adequate drinking water for every rural household will not only be achieved but sustained for generations to come.

Figure :32 | Secretary, DDWS chairing the Samvad | Source: N.J.J.M

Jal Mahotsav 2026: Reimagining Water as a People's Movement by Strengthening Water Security through Jan Bhagidari and Convergence

– Yogendra Kumar Singh, Director, N.J.J.M, DDWS and Chanchal Modi, NPMU-N.J.J.M

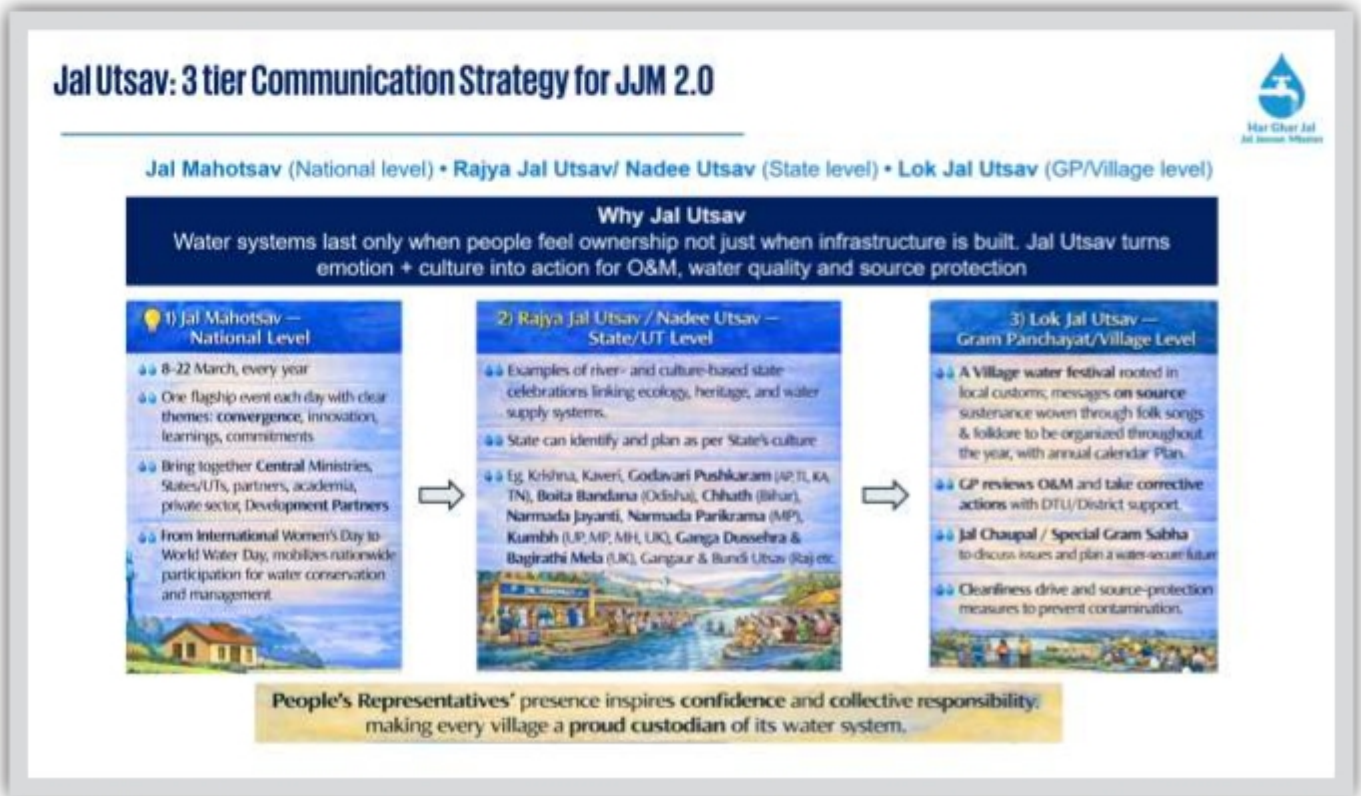
Yogendra Kumar Singh

"Water systems endure not when they are constructed, but when they are collectively cared for."

India's rural drinking water journey has reached an important turning point as the Mission has made a big difference by bringing tap water directly into over 15 crore rural homes. This has reduced the daily hardship of collecting water, especially for women, and has helped improve health in many lives. However, as more households get tap connections, a new challenge becomes clear; how to make sure these water supply systems keep working properly, provide safe water, and remain sustainable for many years to come.

This moment marks a shift, from infrastructure creation to service sustainability, from delivery to community ownership, and from government-led provision to community-led stewardship.

It is within this evolving context that the idea of Jal Utsav has taken shape. The concept of Jal Utsav finds its origin in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision articulated during the 3rd Chief Secretaries' Conference in December 2023, where he emphasised the need to develop a tradition that builds public sensitivity towards water, much like India's long-standing cultural celebrations of rivers and nature.



This idea was piloted in 20 aspirational blocks and districts as 15 days *'Jal Utsav'* campaign. What became clear was that when water was talked about not just as a government scheme, but as something the community shares and depends on, people became more involved. Villagers walked along pipelines, tested water quality themselves, cleaned water sources, and openly discussed problems. This campaign witnessed a vast number of community involvement through awareness and IEC activities and water systems that were earlier seen as government property began to be seen as a shared responsibility of the community.

This insight is the foundation of *'Jal Utsav'*, a nationwide campaign. The key idea is simple; water systems last not just because they are built, but because people care for them. Jal Utsav brings together culture, community and local governance to turn awareness into everyday action. It is not just a one-time event, but a long-term change in behaviour, where people feel pride, emotional connection and responsibility, leading to better care, maintenance and protection of water systems while celebrating cultural practices in & around water.

To put this philosophy into action, Jal Utsav has been designed as a three-level community engagement framework. At the national level, *Jal Mahotsav* helps build momentum, visibility and coordination across sectors. At the state level, *Rajya Jal Utsav / Nadi Utsav* allows states to shape activities based on their local geography and culture. At the village (GP) level, *Lok Jal Utsav* brings the idea directly into communities, where water systems are used and maintained every day.

This layered approach ensures that water governance is not pushed from the top, but grows from within communities, with strong support from institutions at every level.

Jal Mahotsav 2026: The National Launch of Jal Utsav

As part of this framework, Jal Mahotsav 2026 will be observed from 8 March to 22 March, marking the first national-level celebration of the Jal Utsav campaign. This time period has been chosen with care, it begins on International Women's Day and concludes on World Water Day, highlighting the central role of women in water management and the importance of water as a shared resource for all.

Jal Mahotsav is not planned as a one-time activity. It is envisioned as an annual national tradition, a people-led movement that helps citizens reconnect with water through participation, responsibility, and pride.

What Jal Mahotsav Aims to Achieve

At its heart, Jal Mahotsav represents a change in how rural drinking water is viewed and managed. It reinforces four key ideas.

i. First, water systems belong to the community. Infrastructure created under the Jal Jeevan Mission must be cared for, managed, and protected by the people who use it.

ii. Second, women are central to water governance. From testing water quality to managing systems, women are increasingly taking leadership roles, not just receiving benefits.

iii. Third, there must be a shift towards reliable and trusted drinking water services, where regular supply, safety, and quality are as important as building infrastructure.

iv. Fourth, sustainable water management requires coordination across sectors. Health, nutrition, livelihoods, skills development, and local governance must work together.

Together, these ideas move water beyond being just an infrastructure or sectoral issue and place it at the centre of shared community and development goals.

The Major Days of Jal Mahotsav

Jal Mahotsav has been planned as 15-day journey with day wise activities, with each activity serving a clear purpose.

The campaign begins on **8 March** as Nari Neer Shakti, which recognises the leadership of women in managing and safeguarding drinking water. This day marks the start with nationwide **Jal Arpan**, where drinking water schemes are formally handed over to Gram Panchayats. This handover symbolises trust and reinforces the idea that these systems are meant to be cared for by the community.

The **national event on 11 March** acts as the main point of convergence graced by Hon'ble President of India. It brings together ministries, State governments, experts, and community representatives. This event is not only a celebration, but also an opportunity for discussion and learning. Key themes include the link between water, nutrition and child health; the need for skilled people to manage water systems; and the role of youth in ensuring long-term water sustainability.

The final culmination event, on **22 March**, aligned with **World Water Day**, focuses on reflection and the way forward. Activities during this phase encourage villages to plan service improvements, prepare Rajya Jal Utsav/ Nadi Utsav and Lok Jal Utsav calendars, and renew their commitments to maintaining safe and reliable water systems.

Gram Panchayat: Where Jal Utsav Comes to Life

While Jal Mahotsav builds momentum at the national level, its real impact is seen at the Gram Panchayat level. At this level, communities walk together along their water systems to understand how water reaches their homes. Trained women will test drinking water quality using field kits, community gaining knowledge and confidence. Villagers clean and protect water sources, recognising their importance for the future. Panchayats will review their water systems, identify gaps, and prepare plans to improve services.

These activities are not one-time events. They help build a culture of local ownership, responsibility, and capability, ensuring that water systems continue to function well over time.

Convergence Activities During Jal Mahotsav

One of the significant aspects of Jal Mahotsav is its focus on working across ministries, departments and sectors. Water does not exist in isolation, it affects health, nutrition, livelihoods, skills, and local governance and Jal Mahotsav brings these connections into real action.

Linkages with health and nutrition highlight how safe drinking water helps reduce diseases and improves the health of children and families. Coordination with rural livelihoods programmes enables women's groups to support water quality testing and system upkeep, building both community ownership and livelihood opportunities.

In the area of skills and capacity building, Jal Mahotsav recognises plumbers and technicians as essential service providers. It also encourages youth to take up trained roles in managing rural water systems, helping professionalise these services.

Through collaboration with Panchayati Raj institutions, the focus shifts to better financial planning, water budgeting, and inclusion of drinking water priorities in Gram Panchayat Development Plans. This ensures that sustainability becomes part of regular local decision-making.

At the same time, institutions working on groundwater and water resources support efforts to protect water sources, using data and planning tools to strengthen long-term water security.

Together, these efforts turn convergence from a policy concept into coordinated action at the ground level.

From Celebration to Continuity: Building a New Water Ethic

Jal Mahotsav is not an end with 15 days activities only. Its real value lies in what continues after the celebrations.

If villages start reviewing their water systems regularly, if women actively take part in decision-making, if Panchayats plan for operation and long-term maintenance, and if

government departments continue technical support and working together beyond the campaign then Jal Mahotsav will have met its true purpose.

What matters is not how many activities are organised, but how deeply people are involved and whether action continues over time. In many ways, Jal Utsav plan to reflect India's long-standing traditions, where water was respected, protected and celebrated by communities. At the same time, it represents a modern approach, supported by strong institutions, data-based planning, and trained professionals.

By bringing these together, Jal Utsav connects culture with governance, and tradition with technology. As Jal Mahotsav begins this March, it invites every village, institution and individual to take part, not because they are required to, but because they understand its importance. Because water is not just a service. It is the foundation of life, dignity and health and a responsibility shared by all, and it's sustenance depends not only on systems, but on collective care.

MY Gov- My Tap My Pride Selfie/ Video Competition- Date Extended!

खुशख़बरी! ख़ुशख़बरी!

माई टैप: माई प्राइड - सेल्फी/वीडियो प्रतियोगिता में भाग लें और अपने गाँव/ घर तक पहुँचे स्वच्छ जल की कहानी साझा करें। एंट्री की अंतिम तिथि: 31 मार्च 2026 आज ही हिस्सा लें और अपनी कहानी पूरे देश तक पहुँचाएँ।

नवादा, फ्लोराइड मुक्त पेयजल की ओर : एक बदलाव की कहानी

'हर घर नल का जल' | जन स्वास्थ्य से जनभागीदारी तक

- रवि प्रकाश, जिलाधिकारी, नवादा, बिहार

रवि प्रकाश

बिहार में 'हर घर नल का जल' कार्यक्रम ने ग्रामीण पेयजल आपूर्ति को एक नई दिशा दी है। यह पहल केवल घर-घर नल कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इसका मूल उद्देश्य प्रत्येक नागरिक को सुरक्षित, नियमित और गुणवत्तापूर्ण पेयजल सेवा सुनिश्चित करना है। नवादा जिला इस बदलाव का एक सशक्त उदाहरण बनकर उभरा है, जहाँ वर्षों से भू-जल में फ्लोराइड की अधिकता जनस्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर चुनौती रही है। आज नवादा में सतही जल आधारित बहुग्रामीय जलापूर्ति योजना और जनभागीदारी के संयुक्त प्रयासों से फ्लोराइड मुक्त पेयजल की ओर एक निर्णायक बदलाव स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे रहा है।

नवादा जिला : एक संक्षिप्त परिचय

नवादा जिला 14 प्रखंडों, 182 ग्राम पंचायतों एवं कुल 2415 वार्डों से मिलकर बना है। इनमें से 1008 वार्ड लोक स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रण विभाग तथा 1407 वार्ड पंचायती राज विभाग के अंतर्गत आते हैं। जिले का लक्ष्य प्रत्येक परिवार

Figure :33 | नल से जल पिती एक बच्ची | सोर्स: नवादा जिल्ला, बिहार

Figure :34 | अस्थि और दन्त फ्लोरिसिस प्रभावित से प्रभावित कुछ बच्चे और ग्रामीण, कचरिया डीह,रजौली | सोर्स: नवादा जिल्ला, बिहार

को घर में नल के माध्यम से सुरक्षित पेयजल उपलब्ध कराना तथा फ्लोराइड प्रभावित बसावटों में स्वास्थ्य जोखिम को न्यूनतम करना है।

फ्लोराइड की चुनौती और नवादा की हकीकत

नवादा में भू-जल में फ्लोराइड की मात्रा मानक(1.00mg/l) से अधिक पाई जाती रही है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप दंत एवं अस्थि फ्लोरोसिस जैसी बीमारियाँ आम होती गईं। दाँतों पर दाग, हड्डियों में दर्द और चलने-फिरने में कठिनाई जैसी समस्याएँ ग्रामीण परिवारों के दैनिक जीवन का हिस्सा बन चुकी थीं। स्वास्थ्य पर बढ़ते खर्च और कार्यक्षमता में कमी ने सामाजिक-आर्थिक जीवन को भी प्रभावित किया। इस स्थिति ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि सुरक्षित पेयजल केवल सुविधा नहीं, बल्कि जनस्वास्थ्य की अनिवार्यता है।

रजौली बहुग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना: परिवर्तन की आधारशिला

फ्लोराइड की समस्या से निपटने के लिए रजौली प्रखंड में फुलवरिया जलाशय पर आधारित सतही जल स्रोत से रजौली बहुग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना स्थापित की गई। लगभग ₹7802 लाख की तकनीकी स्वीकृति वाली इस योजना के माध्यम से 90 गाँवों को उपचारित एवं गुणवत्तापूर्ण पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है। 9.56 MLD क्षमता वाले जल शोधन संयंत्र (WTP), इनटेक वेल, CWR, OHT एवं

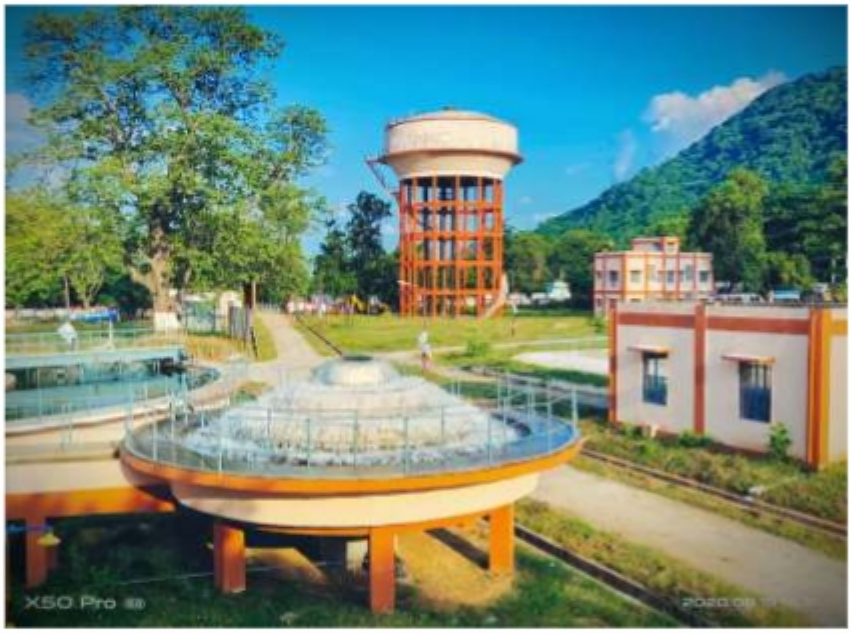


Figure :35 | बहुग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना रजौली | सोर्स: नवादा जिल्ला, बिहार

MESR के माध्यम से कुल 9191 घरों को नल से जलापूर्ति सुनिश्चित की गई है।

हर घर नल का जल : केवल कनेक्शन नहीं, निरंतर सेवा

जिले में कुल 2910 जलापूर्ति योजनाएँ क्रियाशील हैं, जिनमें वार्ड स्तरीय योजनाएँ तथा बहुग्रामीण योजनाएँ सम्मिलित हैं। इन योजनाओं का उद्देश्य केवल नल कनेक्शन देना नहीं, बल्कि निरंतर, निर्बाध एवं सतत जलापूर्ति प्रदान करना है जिसके लिए संचालन एवं अनुरक्षण (O&M), जल गुणवत्ता,स्थानीय स्तर पर त्वरित मरम्मत व्यवस्था के साथ निर्बाध एवं निरंतर जलापूर्ति को विशेष महत्व दिया गया है।

जल गुणवत्ता निगरानी: बहु-स्तरीय व्यवस्था

नवादा जिले में जल गुणवत्ता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु सुदृढ़ निगरानी तंत्र विकसित किया गया है। जिला स्तर पर NABL मान्यता प्राप्त जल जांच प्रयोगशाला, अनुमंडल स्तर पर प्रयोगशालाएँ तथा प्रत्येक पंचायत में फील्ड टेस्ट किट (FTK) के माध्यम से नियमित जल जांच की जाती है। प्रत्येक माह 'जल गुणवत्ता समीक्षा दिवस' आयोजित कर आंकड़ों की समीक्षा की जाती है। पंप हाउसों पर जांच प्रतिवेदन का संधारण, क्लोरीनेशन यूनिट का अनुरक्षण एवं जल मीनारों की नियमित सफाई से BIS:10500 मानकों के अनुरूप जलापूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा रही है।

Figure :36 | वार्ड स्तरीय जलापूर्ति योजना | Source: NJJM

शिकायत निवारण एवं तकनीकी अनुश्रवण

ग्रामीण स्तर पर त्वरित समाधान हेतु ग्राम पंचायतों में मरम्मत दल गठित हैं। सेंसर आधारित IoT अनुश्रवण प्रणाली के माध्यम से जलापूर्ति योजनाओं की निगरानी की जा रही है। पंप हाउस पर शिकायत रजिस्टर, जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष (06324210036) तथा राज्य स्तरीय टोल-फ्री एवं व्हाट्सएप सुविधाओं के माध्यम से नागरिकों की शिकायतों का समयबद्ध समाधान किया जा रहा है।

जल चौपाल: संवाद से समाधान तक

प्रत्येक माह के प्रथम गुरुवार को आयोजित जल चौपाल के माध्यम से जल उपयोग, बर्बादी, गुणवत्ता एवं गृह जल संयोजन जैसे विषयों पर सामुदायिक संवाद किया जाता है। यह मंच न केवल जागरूकता बढ़ाता है, बल्कि जनभागीदारी को भी सशक्त करता है।

सकारात्मक प्रभाव: स्वास्थ्य से समृद्धि तक

रजौली बहुग्रामीण जलापूर्ति योजना एवं अन्य पहलों के परिणामस्वरूप फ्लोरोसिस के नए मामलों में उल्लेखनीय कमी आई है। जलजनित रोगों में गिरावट, महिलाओं एवं बच्चों के समय और श्रम की बचत, स्वास्थ्य व्यय में कमी तथा जीवन स्तर में सुधार स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे रहा है। नियमित एवं सुरक्षित जलापूर्ति से समुदाय का सरकार एवं विभाग पर विश्वास बढ़ा है और सामुदायिक एकजुटता सुदृढ़ हुई है।

निष्कर्ष

नवादा जिले का अनुभव यह दर्शाता है कि जब तकनीकी समाधान, मजबूत संस्थागत व्यवस्था और जनभागीदारी एक साथ आती हैं, तो जटिल समस्याओं का स्थायी समाधान संभव है। 'हर घर नल का जल' निश्चय के माध्यम से फ्लोराइड मुक्त पेयजल की दिशा में नवादा में उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन आया है।

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

फोटो गैलरी

FTK के माध्यम से जल की जांच

जल चौपाल

खुशी से नल के जल का उपयोग करते हुए बच्चे

नल के जल का उपयोग करते हुए ग्रामीण

पंप ऑपरेटर द्वारा महिला उपभोक्ताओं से नल का जल के संपृक्त उपयोग पर चर्चा

Jal Jeevan Mission in Patuk Singbel, Gangtok: An odyssey from water insecurity to Har Ghar Jal

– Tushar G Nikhare, District Magistration, Gangtok, Sikkim

Figure :37 | DWSM meeting | Source: DWSM Gangtok

Tushar G Nikhare

Introduction

Rural water security is a vital foundation for public health, gender equality, and sustainable development. In the mountainous state of Sikkim, the village of Patuk Singbel in Gangtok District stands out as a strong example of how community-led water governance can work in practice. Through the effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the village has successfully achieved universal access to safe and adequate drinking water for all households.

Pre-Intervention Context: Structural Water Insecurity

Before the piped water supply under JJM became operational, households in Patuk Singbel relied mainly on traditional springs and scattered local sources. These were often far from homes, changed with the seasons, and were becoming increasingly unreliable due to ecological changes and climate-related pressures common in Himalayan areas.

The task of collecting water fell largely on women and children, leading to significant time burdens and limiting opportunities for schooling, income generation, and participation in community life. Dependence on untreated water sources also increased the risk of waterborne illnesses. In this context, the lack of household-level water connections was not just an inconvenience - it was a major barrier to both development and public health.

Universal Functional Household Tap Connectivity

The introduction of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) under JJM brought about a transformative shift in the village's water supply system. With the implementation now complete, Patuk Singbel has achieved 100 percent tap water coverage, ensuring that every household receives safe and reliable drinking water at its doorstep.

This transition has significantly reduced the physical burden of water

Figure :38 | Happy beneficiaries having tap water connection at home | Source: DWSM Gangtok

collection, improved hygiene and sanitation practices, and enhanced the overall quality of life for residents. More than just an infrastructure upgrade, universal tap connectivity represents a meaningful step toward dignity, equity, and inclusive service delivery in rural communities.

Institutional Coverage and Public Health Gains

The impact of JJM in Patuk Singbel extends beyond individual households to include key public institutions. The village school now has uninterrupted access to clean drinking water, creating a safer and more hygienic environment for students. Similarly, the Anganwadi centre receives a reliable water supply that supports cooking, sanitation, and daily childcare activities.

This comprehensive coverage of institutions strengthens community-wide health, nutrition, and sanitation outcomes. By ensuring that educational and childcare facilities are integrated into the water supply system, the initiative reinforces preventive public health practices and encourages long-term behavioural change toward improved hygiene standards.

Participatory Governance and Grievance Redressal

A key strength of Patuk Singbel's water security model is its participatory approach to governance. The village has established a dedicated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Centre that serves as a local platform for grievance redressal. Residents can easily report issues such as leakages, low pressure, irregular supply, or technical faults. These complaints are recorded systematically and resolved in coordination with the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC).

The VWSC is central to the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the water system. Its responsibilities include routine inspection of pipelines and reservoirs, monitoring the distribution network, periodic water quality testing, and ensuring compliance with safety standards. The committee also organizes awareness activities on water conservation, safe storage, and sanitation practices. This institutional setup strengthens accountability, promotes community ownership, and helps reduce service interruptions.

Financial Sustainability and Accountability Mechanisms

The long-term sustainability of Patuk Singbel's water supply system is supported by a robust dual financing model. Each household contributes a modest monthly tariff, which is deposited into a dedicated village water account and used exclusively for O&M. These community-generated funds cover minor repairs, replacement of worn-out components, operator wages, electricity bills, and urgent maintenance needs.

In parallel, tied grants from the Fifteenth Finance Commission provide additional financial backing for infrastructure strengthening, major repair works, procurement of water quality testing kits, and capacity-building initiatives for members of the VWSC. Transparent accounting procedures and periodic reporting to the Gram Sabha ensure collective oversight and responsible use of funds.

Together, this blended approach combining community contributions with institutional grant support enhances the financial resilience of the water supply system and reinforces democratic accountability at the village level.

Source Sustainability: The Role of Dhara Vikas in Gangtok District

In the hilly terrain of Sikkim, springs form the primary source of drinking water for rural communities. In recent years, however, several springs have shown declining discharge as a result of shifting rainfall patterns, land-use changes, and ecological degradation. Recognizing the critical importance of safeguarding these natural sources, we have undertaken sustained efforts to strengthen water conservation and ensure long-term source sustainability.

In the Khamdong Block of Gangtok District, the **Dhara Vikas initiative** has been implemented with a focus on scientific spring-shed management. Under my stewardship as District Collector and Chairman of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM), the initiative addresses the declining discharge of springs through an integrated set of measures. These include catchment area treatment, construction of recharge structures, afforestation, and soil and water conservation interventions that enhance groundwater recharge and improve the overall hydrological balance.

The success of Dhara Vikas in Khamdong Block reflects a combination of technical planning, active community participation, and coordinated administrative action. Together, these efforts are contributing meaningfully to building hydrological resilience and advancing our broader district-level goal of ensuring sustainable water security across Gangtok District.

Looking ahead, we intend to extend the Dhara Vikas model to other parts of the district. This planned expansion will build on the outcomes achieved in Khamdong Block and

Figure :49 | Water quality testing | Source: DWSM Gangtok

enable a more comprehensive, district-wide approach to spring rejuvenation, water conservation, and long-term drinking water security.

Convergence Through District-Level Synergy

The coexistence of JJM implementation in Patuk Singbel and spring rejuvenation efforts under Dhara Vikas in Khamdong Block illustrates an important principle of integrated water resource management. Infrastructure provisioning at the

Figure :40 | Dhara Vikas for source sustainability | Source: DWSM Gangtok

village level must be aligned with ecological restoration at the source level to ensure long-term viability.

By situating household-level tap connectivity within a broader district framework of spring-shed management, Gangtok District exemplifies a layered model of water security-combining service delivery, participatory governance, financial sustainability, and scientific source management.

Conclusion

The experience of Patuk Singbel demonstrates that lasting rural water security depends on far more than the expansion of physical infrastructure. It requires strong community institutions, transparent and accountable financial systems, reliable operation and maintenance practices, and a close integration with wider ecological conservation efforts.

Within the broader context of Gangtok District-where source rejuvenation activities under the Dhara Vikas initiative in Khamdong Block complement the service delivery framework of the Jal Jeevan Mission-this model exemplifies a holistic and scalable approach to rural water governance. The case clearly shows that when policies are implemented in a coordinated manner across administrative levels, the national vision of "Har Ghar Jal" can be translated into a sustainable and enduring reality for every household.

Transforming Drinking Water Supply Through Smart Technology

– **Ankit Yadav,** IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa

Ankit Yadav

Achievements in Rural Drinking Water Supply

Under the visionary guidance of the Government of India and with the collective commitment of the people of Goa, Jal Jeevan Mission has emerged as a transformative force in ensuring equitable, sustainable, and technology-driven drinking water supply. North Goa district has made remarkable progress in strengthening water supply systems, enhancing service delivery, and adopting innovative technology to guarantee 'Ease of Living' for every citizen. Goa proudly became a Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) State on 2nd October 2020, ensuring that 100% of its habitations have access to safe and reliable drinking water. This achievement reflects the State's long-standing commitment to water security, inclusive development, and high standards of service delivery. With supply levels of 82 Liter Per Capita Per Day (lpcd) in rural areas and 143 lpcd in urban regions.

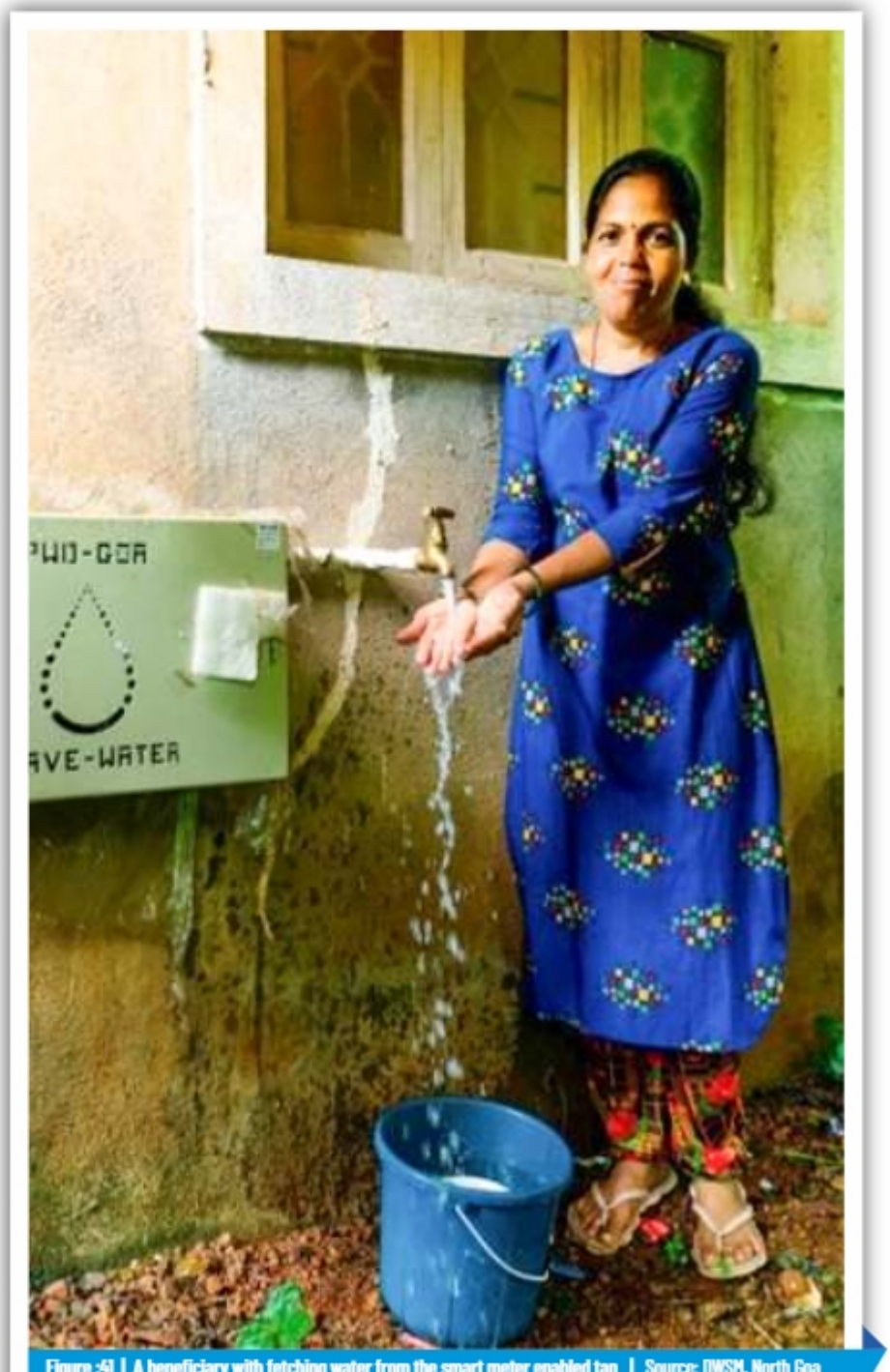


Figure :41 | A beneficiary with fetching water from the smart meter enabled tap | Source: DWSM, North Goa

Goa exemplifies a model water secure State.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has further provided the momentum to consolidate and expand this progress. Between 2019 and 2024, Goa received sanction of over Rs. 120 crores under JJM, with a central share of Rs. 50 crores. Importantly, 96% of the State's water demand is sourced sustainably from surface water through Regional Water Supply Schemes, significantly reducing dependence on groundwater and enhancing long term availability.

In North Goa, the vision is aligned with the national goal of achieving 24X7 water supply with enhanced 100 lpcd in rural areas and 150 lpcd in urban areas. Currently, over a quarter of the population already benefits from continuous water supply, and systematic steps are being taken to expand this coverage.

Figure :42 | A beneficiary happy to receive the water charge payment receipt | Source: DWSM, North Goa

Technology Driven Service Delivery and Digital Governance

Goa is the first state to implement 100% digital water bill generation and collection, ensuring transparency and promoting user-friendly governance. This technological advancement forms the backbone of the state's future strategy.

Goa has long been a pioneer in digitization, it computerized water billing as early as the year 2000. Today, the state has moved to metered functional tap connections, introduced a uniform tariff structure for both rural and urban households, and enabled real-time QR-based billing systems.

Consumers now benefit from instant digital payments, transparent usage monitoring, reduced revenue downtime, and efficient grievance redressal mechanisms. Together, these initiatives have significantly enhanced transparency, operational efficiency, and consumer convenience.

Smart Water Supply Management and Citizen Centric Services

The next major leap for Goa is its transition toward becoming a Smart Water Utility. With the integration of IoT-based monitoring at the village level, real-time performance tracking, and data-driven decision-making, we are creating a water supply system that is resilient, responsive, and future-ready. Additionally, all Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are being brought under SCADA-based centralized monitoring to enhance efficiency, accountability, and timely intervention.

Citizen-centric governance remains at the core of all our initiatives. A comprehensive mobile application is currently being developed to integrate all public services-including water billing, connection approvals, leak repair reporting, sewerage services, road-cutting permissions, meter replacement, and other essential utilities-into a single digital platform. A 24x7 PHE helpline equipped with GIS-based grievance mapping further reinforces our commitment to delivering prompt, reliable, and accessible services.

As North Goa continues its progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission, we reaffirm our dedication to building a water-secure and technologically empowered district. Our efforts represent not only administrative efficiency but a shared responsibility—where government, community, and technological innovation work together to ensure that every household receives safe, reliable, and sustainable drinking water.

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Jaisalmer District: Advancing Rural Drinking Water Security under Jal Jeevan Mission

- Pratap Singh, District Collector, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Pratap Singh

Jaisalmer, the largest district in Rajasthan with a geographical area of 38,401 sq. km, presents unique challenges for ensuring equitable and sustainable drinking water supply. The district is predominantly rural, with 38,331 sq. km under rural habitation, marked by extreme climatic conditions, scattered settlements, and limited natural water sources. These structural constraints demand a robust and multi-dimensional approach to water supply planning and service delivery. As per Census 2011, the district comprises 1,22,958 households, serving a population of 6,69,919.

Despite these challenges, significant progress has been achieved under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Considering the vast terrain, dispersed habitations, and a low population density of just 17 persons per sq. km, the district has recorded substantial gains in household tap water coverage. Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage has increased from 1.99% on 15 August 2019 to 49.86% as of January 2026, with 61,317 households now provided tap water supply. This progress reflects sustained administrative focus, systematic planning, and close monitoring across all blocks of the district.

Figure :43| A mother and her children with their tap connection | Source: DWSM Jaisalmer

Strengthening Water Access in Public Institutions

Alongside household coverage, the district has given priority to providing safe drinking water not only in houses but also in public institutions. Tap water connections have been extended to 853 schools, 279

Figure :44 | IEC activity | Source: DWSM Jaisalmer

Anganwadi centres, and 92 health centres, strengthening basic service delivery systems and ensuring reliable access for children, women, and frontline service providers. Efforts are ongoing to further expand institutional and household coverage, with a focused approach towards bridging gaps and achieving universal access under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Robust Water Quality Monitoring Framework

Ensuring drinking water quality remains a central pillar of the district's strategy. A comprehensive monitoring mechanism has been established through one district-level laboratory and six block-level laboratories, including one NABL-accredited laboratory, to ensure adherence to prescribed quality standards.

Community participation has been effectively integrated through the Field Test Kit (FTK) programme, which now covers 86 Gram Panchayats. In each village, five trained women regularly test drinking water sources, strengthening local vigilance, awareness, and trust in water quality. This initiative has simultaneously enhanced women's participation and community ownership of water safety.

Figure :45 | Ground water recharge shaft | Source: DWSM Jaisalmer

Focus on Source Sustainability in an Arid Landscape

Given Jaisalmer's arid conditions, source sustainability has received focused attention through a combination of supply-side and management interventions. Key measures include:

- Conjunctive use of canal water and groundwater to reduce dependence on a single source
- Integration of rainwater harvesting structures
- Artificial recharge interventions in critical groundwater blocks
- Strengthening of village-level storage capacity to ensure 2-3 days of buffer supply

These infrastructure measures are supported by awareness programmes on water conservation, periodic groundwater monitoring, and systematic efforts towards leakage control in transmission systems-together enhancing the resilience of rural water supply systems.

Institutional Strengthening at the Village Level

Strengthening Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) has been a key focus area for sustainable operations. VWSCs have been formalised with 11–15 members, with 50% representation of women, and are being trained in essential technical and managerial functions such as valve operation, meter reading, leak detection, chlorination, and basic system oversight. This capacity-building approach is gradually institutionalising community-led operation and maintenance of water supply schemes.

Figure :46 | Ground water recharge shaft | Source: DWSM Jaisalmer

Operational Challenges in a Desert Context

Despite the progress achieved, delivering sustainable water services in Jaisalmer continues to remain challenging. The district faces harsh desert terrain, shifting sand dunes, deep and declining groundwater levels, and water quality issues such as salinity and fluoride contamination. Operational challenges include long transmission pipelines, high operation and maintenance costs, frequent pump breakdowns, irregular power supply, and periodic canal closures. Addressing these constraints requires continuous innovation, adaptive planning, and inter-departmental coordination.

Border Villages as Success Stories

The remote border villages of Longewala and Gamnewala, located near the Indo-Pak border and more than 100 km from the district headquarters, stand out as notable success stories under JJM. Historically, women in these villages walked several kilometres, often at dawn to collect water from distant ponds, facing extreme weather conditions and physical hardship.

With the implementation of "Har Ghar Nal se Jal," this long-standing burden has been significantly reduced. Households now have access to potable drinking water at their doorstep, eliminating dependence on costly water tankers. The intervention has led to improvements in health, dignity, safety, and quality of life, particularly for women, while fostering a renewed sense of well-being in these remote border communities.

Figure :47 | Rain water harvesting at Anicut | Source: DWSM Jaisalmer

Peyjal Samvad: Enabling Responsive Water Governance

The district has also institutionalised Peyjal Samvad as a key governance mechanism. This platform facilitates regular dialogue among stakeholders, strengthens accountability, and ensures that implementation remains responsive to ground realities. Peyjal Samvad has played an important role in identifying challenges, sharing best practices, and accelerating problem-solving under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Conclusion

The progress achieved in Jaisalmer reflects the impact of a coordinated, community-driven approach, supported by sustained administrative commitment, institutional strengthening, and a strong focus on source sustainability. While challenges remain, the district's efforts demonstrate that even in the most resource-constrained and geographically complex environments, structured planning and people-centric governance can steadily advance the goal of universal tap water coverage, in alignment with the national vision of "Har Ghar Jal."

Transforming Longding: A Journey from Water Crisis to Water Security

– Kunal Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Longding District, Arunachal Pradesh

Kunal Yadav

Longding district is one of the 27 administrative districts of Arunachal Pradesh in northeastern India. It was carved out of the south-western portion of the Tirap District. The district shares its boundary to the south and south-east with the country of Myanmar. Its boundary to the west and the north are shared with the Indian states of Nagaland and Assam, respectively. Towards the north-east is the Tirap District from which the district was carved out in 2012. The district has a population of around 60000 and an area of roughly 1200 square kilometers.

Longding has a pleasant climate throughout the year. Due to its hilly terrain, the temperature ranges from 15C (in winter) to 30C in summers).

Longding, Before Jal Jeevan Mission

The water supply situation in Longding district was historically very critical due to the predominance of hilltop settlements and the widespread practice of jhum (shifting) cultivation. These factors significantly affected the availability and sustainability of water sources. Consequently, most villages could only be provided with limited water supply systems, and at that time, solar-based lift water supply schemes were neither sanctioned nor implemented. Only a few villages had access to water from nearby traditional sources, mainly through public stand posts.

Figure :48 | A beneficiary with household tap connection | Source: Longding DWSM

In 2019, with the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the district faced an initial challenge as only about 10% of households had functional tap water connections. The local population was largely sceptical, and it was difficult to build trust and awareness regarding the mission's objectives and guidelines.

However, through intensive IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) and IPC (Interpersonal Communication) activities, along with the support of implementing support agencies, multiple Gram Sabhas were conducted across the district. These efforts facilitated community participation, leading to the preparation of comprehensive Village Action Plans (VAPs), which were subsequently submitted to the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) for approval.

Major Challenges

The district faced several significant challenges in the implementation process:

- Rapid deforestation due to traditional jhum (shifting) cultivation, resulting in depletion of natural water sources
- Difficult and remote terrain, making transportation and infrastructure development challenging
- Low literacy levels among the population, affecting awareness and community engagement
- Insurgency-related constraints that hindered smooth execution of development activities

Achievements under JJM

Despite these challenges, the district administration, along with the dedicated field teams, worked with strong commitment and perseverance. By strictly adhering to the guidelines of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation), effective strategies were implemented for the successful execution of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

These collective efforts enabled the district to make substantial progress toward achieving the goal of **"Har Ghar Jal"** within the stipulated timeline, ensuring improved access to safe and reliable drinking water for rural households.

Effective IEC plans and implementation by DWSM

Awareness and Community Engagement Activities

A series of awareness and capacity-building activities were carried out with the active involvement of school

Figure :40 | Gram Sabha, PRA and Water Quality activities | Source: Longding DWSM

Figure :50 | Meeting with village community | Source: Longding DWSM

students and the Health Department to promote water conservation, sanitation, and the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and SBM-G.

The key activities undertaken are as follows:

- **Exhibitions on Water Supply Systems**

Demonstrations and exhibitions were organized showcasing gravity-based and solar lift water supply systems to enhance public understanding of sustainable water supply technologies.

- **Catchment Area Protection & Source Rejuvenation Awareness**

Live models were displayed during Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations to demonstrate rainwater recharge pits and catchment area protection methods for sustainable water source management.

- **Exposure Visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs)**

Educational exposure tours were arranged for students and community members to both rural and urban Water Treatment Plants, providing practical insights into water purification and supply systems.

- **Nukkad Natak (Street Plays)**

Street plays were conducted to spread awareness on water conservation, efficient water management practices, and the importance of safeguarding water resources.

- **Competitions for Students**

Drawing and essay competitions were organized focusing on themes related to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), encouraging creativity and awareness among students.

Initiatives taken by DWSM to engage SHGs/ PACS

Engagement of Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs)

During the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), two Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) were engaged to carry out intensive IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) and BCC (Behaviour Change Communication) campaigns across the district.

The agencies involved were:

- **Wancho Cultural Society (CBO)**
- **Zohai Tingsho Hutham (SHG)**

These agencies played a crucial role in community mobilization, awareness generation, and facilitating behavioural change among the rural population through local dialects. Their efforts significantly contributed to enhancing community participation and ensuring the successful implementation of JJM in the district.

Following the completion of JJM activities, both ISAs were discontinued as per the directives of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MoDWS).

Initiative for building effective water quality surveillance

Capacity Building, Monitoring, and Sustainability Measures

To ensure sustainability and effective operation of water supply systems under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), several capacity-building and monitoring initiatives were undertaken:

- **Identification of Groups for FTK Training**

Suitable individuals and groups within villages were identified and selected for training on the use of Field Test Kits (FTKs) for water quality monitoring.

- **Regular Hands-on Training on FTK Usage**

Continuous practical training sessions were conducted to build the capacity of selected individuals in handling FTKs, testing water quality, and proper reporting of results.

- **Provision of Incentives for O&M Personnel**

Fixed incentives may be arranged for Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)-appointed plumbers responsible for operation and maintenance (O&M) of water supply systems, as well as for FTK-

trained personnel. These incentives can be supported through funds from the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions.

- **Regular Monitoring through DWSM Meetings**

Timely meetings of the District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) were conducted in coordination with VWSCs to review progress, monitor activities, and address implementation challenges effectively.

Best practices

Commissioning, Verification, and Handover of Water Supply Schemes

The final phase of implementation under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) focused on commissioning, verification, and ensuring long-term sustainability through community ownership. The key activities undertaken include:

- **Commissioning of Water Supply Schemes**

All completed schemes were formally commissioned after ensuring functionality, water quality standards, and system readiness for public use.

- **Village Survey and Feedback for 100% FHTC Coverage**

Detailed village-level surveys were conducted to verify coverage and functionality, along with collecting feedback from households to ensure achievement of 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).

- **Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) Certification in Gram Sabha**

Upon achieving full coverage, certification of "Har Ghar Jal" status was carried out in Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring transparency and community validation.

- **Handing Over of Water Supply Assets to VWSCs**

The completed water supply assets were formally handed over to the Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) for operation and maintenance, promoting community ownership and sustainability.

Best Practices: Kaimoi Village

Community Participation and Sustainability Initiatives

Strong community engagement and local ownership played a vital role in the successful implementation and sustainability of water supply systems under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The key initiatives undertaken are as follows:

- **Gram Sabha Meetings and Awareness Campaigns**

Figure :51 | Regular meeting & monitoring by DWSM | Source: Longding DWSM

Figure :52 | In village water supply assets with JJM branding | Source: Longding DWSM

Multiple Gram Sabha meetings and awareness campaigns were conducted to ensure community involvement, transparency, and informed decision-making.

- **Active Participation of Local Institutions**

Key local bodies, including the Village Development Committee (VDC), Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC), Kaimoi Women Society, and Kaimoi Students' Union, actively participated in planning, implementation, and monitoring activities.

- **Promotion of Healthy Competition**

Competitions were organized among the four colonies of the village for awards such as *Cleanest Colony* and *Most Active Worker*, encouraging community-driven cleanliness and participation.

- **Regular Water Tariff Collection**

A system of regular water tariff collection was established to ensure financial sustainability for operation and maintenance (O&M) of water supply systems.

- **Community Ownership of Water Supply Assets**

Emphasis was placed on community ownership, with VWSCs taking responsibility for the operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure.

- **Social Service and Village Beautification Activities**

Regular social service initiatives and beautification drives were undertaken to maintain cleanliness and improve the overall environment of the village.

- **Utilization of Finance Commission Funds**

Funds from the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions were effectively utilized for activities such as digging rainwater recharge pits in catchment areas, contributing to source sustainability

Outcomes and Impact

The sustained efforts under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and SBM-G have led to significant positive outcomes in the village, reflecting both behavioural transformation and improved resource management:

- **Behavioural Change Among the Community**

Noticeable improvement in community behaviour towards water usage, sanitation, and environmental responsibility.

- **Enhanced Sense of Ownership**

Strong ownership and responsibility among villagers towards assets created under SBM-G and JJM, ensuring their proper upkeep and sustainability.

- **Increased Awareness on Cleanliness and Source Protection**

Greater awareness regarding sanitation, village cleanliness, and the importance of protecting catchment areas for long-term water security.

- **Catchment Area Protection Initiative**

Approximately 245 hectares of land were officially declared as catchment area. A formal resolution for its protection was adopted by the community and duly submitted to the authorities.

Figure :53 | Meeting with village community | Source: Longding DWSM

- **Achievement of Water Surplus Status**

Kaimoi village has successfully transformed into a water-surplus village, ensuring adequate and reliable water availability for all households.

- **Recognition and Awards**

The village has received multiple recognitions, including:

- Cleanest Village in the district
- Most Active VWSC & Swachh Sujjal Gaon
- Most Active Women Society
- Best Tourism Village of the state

Watershed Management Goals and Sustainability Strategy

To ensure long-term water security and sustainability of water supply systems, the district has adopted a comprehensive watershed management approach with the following key goals:

- **Promotion of Terrace Cultivation**

Encouraging terrace farming practices to reduce soil erosion, improve water retention, and enhance groundwater recharge in hilly terrains.

- **Implementation of Soil and Water Conservation Measures**

Activities such as rainwater recharge pits, check dams, contour trenching, and afforestation are being undertaken in catchment areas to strengthen water sources and prevent depletion.

- **Focus on Revenue Generation for O&M**

Emphasis is being placed on generating local revenue (such as water tariffs) to support effective operation and maintenance (O&M) of water supply assets.

- **Source Strengthening Initiatives**

Continuous efforts are being made to rejuvenate and protect water sources to ensure their sustainability and reliability.

- **Convergence of Multiple Schemes**

These activities are being implemented through convergence with various funding sources and schemes, including State Own Resources (SOR), MGNREGA, and Finance Commission Funds (FFC), ensuring optimal utilization of available resources.

- **District-Level Commitment for Sustainability**

In the absence of additional financial support from the Ministry, the district administration remains committed to sustaining these initiatives through district-level funding mechanisms, ensuring uninterrupted and long-term water supply for all.

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Andaman & Nicobar Show India the Future of Rural Water Governance

– **Purva Garg**, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Purva Garg

rare success story—an example of how disciplined governance and active community participation can fundamentally transform essential public services. Today, the islands stand proudly among India's top achievers in drinking water access, having reached **100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC)** coverage across all **265 rural villages** under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

This milestone is not symbolic. It represents an unprecedented leap in equity, ensuring that every one of the **62,037 rural households** now enjoys the dignity and security of reliable tap water. The accomplishment is even more remarkable given the geographical isolation and logistical challenges that define these island territories.

Andaman & Nicobar's achievement goes beyond infrastructure: in **September 2022**, the UT became the country's first to be declared a **"Swachh Sujjal State,"** after each

Figure :54 | Water Concert | Source: DWSM South Andaman

village was independently certified as *Har Ghar Jal* by its Gram Panchayat, a rare feat reflecting deep community buy-in and transparent verification mechanisms.

Financial discipline has been another cornerstone of this transformation. Between 2020 and 2022, the UT sanctioned **40 rural water schemes** totaling ₹14.70 crore yet completed all of them at a lower cost of **₹11.43 crore**, demonstrating uncommon efficiency in public spending. Even the central funds released, ₹10.39 crore were utilized responsibly, with ₹10.08 crore spent as of the latest reporting period.

The islands' water supply geography spans three districts, South Andaman, North & Middle Andaman, and Nicobar all vastly different in terrain and accessibility. Yet, **complete piped water access** is now universal. South Andaman alone, with 28 Gram Panchayats and 89 villages, is serviced through four specialized divisions PHED, RCD, CD-I, and MID, each handling a segment of the distribution and treatment network.

With climate variability posing new risks, local authorities have also demonstrated strong forward planning. During a District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) meeting on **February 2,2026**, officials and PRI representatives proposed a series of measures to secure water availability for the upcoming summer. These included desilting reservoirs, strengthening check-weirs, augmenting storage in Mannarghat, and reviving defunct water sources all steps reflecting anticipatory instead of reactive governance. A dedicated helpline was launched, and APWD engineering teams were tasked with systematic leak detection and repair drives across the network.

The administration's approach to **sustainability** and **community involvement** is equally noteworthy. Massive investments were made in source sustainability: desilting ponds and wells, constructing recharge pits, and developing **29 ponds (158.68 ML)**, **17 borewells (1.60 MLD)** and additional proposals for **7 more ponds (290 ML)** to ensure year-round supply.

Andaman's focus on **water quality monitoring** sets a benchmark for other states. With routine testing at source, WTP, and distribution points supported by an NABL-accredited lab and the Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS), the UT has embedded science into everyday governance.

In parallel, a powerful public awareness movement has reshaped local attitudes. Street plays, school-level social water audits, print campaigns, rallies, and the now-famous **Water Concert at Marina Park** have turned water conservation into a community-wide mission rather than a bureaucratic task.

At a time when many parts of India still struggle with intermittent supply and infrastructure gaps, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have proven that universal water access is not an abstract ideal but an achievable reality. Their model, rooted in **planning, participation, engineering, and ecological responsibility** offers a practical blueprint for the rest of the nation.

If India is to secure its water future, it may find its most compelling lessons not on the mainland, but across the waters in these remarkable islands leading the way.

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Figure :55 | Awareness rally | Source: DWSM South Andaman

Jal Jeevan Mission in Bahraich: From Contaminated water to Hygienic Water

– Akshay Tripathi, District Collector, Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

Akshay Tripathi

Figure :56 | DWSM meeting chaired by District Collector | Source: DWSM Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

Introduction

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is a flagship programme launched by the Government of India in 2019 to provide safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households. A key component of this mission is the "Har Ghar Jal" initiative, which aims to ensure that every rural home has a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC).

"Har Ghar Jal" focuses on delivering clean, safe, and regular piped water supply directly to households, reducing dependence on traditional water sources like wells, hand pumps, and rivers. The mission is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in partnership with state governments and local communities.

Pre-Intervention Context: Structural Water Insecurity

Prior to the operationalization of piped water supply under JJM, households in Bahraich depended on Handpumps and dispersed local sources. These sources were often distant, seasonally variable, and increasingly unreliable due to presence of Iron and Arsenic in underground water.

Universal Functional Household Tap Connectivity

The introduction of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) under JJM marked a transformative shift in the village's water supply architecture. Bahraich has attained approx. 98 percent tap water coverage, ensuring that every household receives potable water at the point of use.

Institutional Coverage and Public Health Gains

The scope of JJM implementation in Bahraich extends beyond residential households to include public institutions. The village school now benefits from uninterrupted access to clean drinking water, fostering a safer and more hygienic educational environment. Likewise, the Anganwadi centre receives reliable water supply to support cooking, sanitation, and childcare services.

Such comprehensive institutional coverage strengthens community-level health, nutrition, and sanitation outcomes. By integrating educational and childcare facilities into the water supply framework, the initiative reinforces preventive public health measures and promotes behavioural change toward improved hygiene standards.

Participatory Governance and Grievance Redressal

Participatory governance and grievance redressal under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are core pillars for ensuring sustainable rural water

Figure :57 | Beneficiaries with household tap connections | Source: DWSM Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

supply. In a district like Bahraich, these mechanisms operate through a mix of community institutions, digital platforms, and administrative monitoring.

The VWSC plays a central role in Operation and Maintenance (O&M). Its responsibilities encompass routine inspection of pipelines and reservoirs, monitoring of distribution networks, periodic water quality testing, and adherence to prescribed safety standards. The committee also conducts awareness programmes on water conservation, safe storage practices, and sanitation behaviour. This institutional arrangement fosters accountability, strengthens community ownership, and minimizes service disruptions.

Financial Sustainability and Accountability Mechanisms

Financial Sustainability in JJM

- User Charges (Tariff Collection)
- Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Fund
- Community Contribution
- Source Sustainability Investments

Accountability Mechanisms

- Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)
- Public Disclosure & Transparency
- Digital Monitoring Systems
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Source Sustainability

DWSM source sustenance plans focus on both traditional and modern water conservation and replenishment methods.

Key components includes

- Water conservation
- Rainwater harvesting
- Greywater management
- Groundwater management
- Watershed management

Strategies for implementation

- Community-based approach
- Capacity building
- IEC activities

Figure :58 | Water quality testing using FTK and awareness | Source: DWSM Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

Conclusion

Bahraich district marked an important step towards strengthening grassroots engagement under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The interaction fostered better understanding among community members, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and implementing agencies about their roles in ensuring safe, adequate, and regular drinking water supply to every household. Emphasis was laid on water quality monitoring, source sustainability, operation and maintenance of schemes, and active community participation. The Samvad also reinforced the spirit of collective responsibility and transparency. With continued efforts, convergence, and community ownership, Bahraich district is well-positioned to achieve the vision of "Har Ghar Jal" and ensure sustainable water security for all its residents.

Figure :59 | Community Soak pit-a step towards water source sustanability | Source: DWSM Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

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Jal Jeevan Mission in Media

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