

# Jal Jeevan Samvad

March | Volume 8 | Issue 3 | Year 2026



Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership  
Changing Lives

Jal Mahotsav

Articles by  
DDWS Officials



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

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

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# Hon'ble President of India on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



**Droupadi Murmu**

President of India

“ जल संरक्षण हम सबका दायित्व है। हमें जल को केवल उपयोग की वस्तु के रूप में न देखकर, आने वाली पीढ़ियों की अमूल्य धरोहर के रूप में देखना चाहिए। जब किसी संसाधन की जिम्मेदारी केवल सरकार नहीं लेती है, बल्कि पूरा समाज लेता है, तब उसका संरक्षण अधिक प्रभावी और स्थायी बन जाता है। जन भागीदारी के बल पर जल जीवन मिशन की सफलता सुदृढ़ और सतत बनेगी।

भारत में, जल केवल एक आधारभूत सुविधा का विषय नहीं रहा है, बल्कि यह हमारी संस्कृति, परंपरा, आजीविका और सामुदायिक जीवन की आत्मा से भी जुड़ा रहा है।”

- Post Mentioned in X handle

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

”



# Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission



**Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister of India

*“ The Cabinet decision on Jal Jeevan Mission marks a major step towards ensuring sustainable and reliable tap water supply for rural households across India. It shifts the focus from only infrastructure creation to citizen-centric service delivery supported by strong local governance and digital monitoring.*

*The move will strengthen water security, improve health outcomes and empower rural communities, especially our Nari Shakti.”*

- Post Mentioned in X handle  
10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

# Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



**C R Patil**

Union Minister of Jal Shakti

“ आज विश्व महिला दिवस के अवसर पर देशभर में शुरू हो रहा “जल महोत्सव” केवल एक महोत्सव नहीं, बल्कि उस परिवर्तन की कहानी है जिसमें जल ने लाखों महिलाओं के जीवन को नई दिशा दी है।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्रभाई मोदी सर के नेतृत्व में जल संरक्षण, जल प्रबंधन और हर घर जल जैसे प्रयासों ने देश की असंख्य माताओं-बहनों के जीवन को सरल, सम्मानजनक और सशक्त बनाया है। कभी घंटों दूर से पानी लाने की मजबूरी झेलने वाली महिलाओं की आज नई पहचान बनी है-वे जल संरक्षण की सहभागी भी हैं और परिवर्तन की प्रेरणा भी। भारत के हर गाँव, हर घर और हर आँगन में पानी से जुड़ी एक महिला की अपनी कहानी है-संघर्ष की, स्वाभिमान की और सशक्तिकरण की। विश्व महिला दिवस पर उन सभी जल नायिकाओं को नमन, जिनकी मेहनत और संकल्प ने जल को जन-आंदोलन बनाया है।”

- Post Mentioned in X handle

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

”



# Minister of State Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



**V. Somanna**

Minister of State for Jal Shakti

*“Jal Mahotsav 2026, celebrated from 8 March to 22 March, has evolved into a nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement, with community meetings, awareness drives, school engagements and Jal Arpan of assets to Gram Panchayats being carried out across the country.*

*Water conservation and drinking water service delivery cannot be limited to a campaign period; they must become a daily collective responsibility of all stakeholders.”*

- Post Mentioned in X handle

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

# Minister of State Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission

“



## Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary

Minister of State for Jal Shakti

“ आज विश्व महिला दिवस के अवसर पर देश भर में जल महोत्सव का शुभारंभ किया जा रहा है। माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में जल संरक्षण को एक जन आंदोलन का रूप मिला है एवं देशभर की असंख्य माताओं-बहनों के जीवन में परिवर्तन आया है, उनके स्वास्थ्य और जीवन शैली में बदलाव आया है।

जल महोत्सव केवल एक कार्यक्रम नहीं बल्कि हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है कि आने वाली पीढ़ियों तक प्रकृति का यह अमूल्य उपहार उन्हें सुरक्षित रूप में सौंपे। आइए इस महोत्सव के माध्यम से इस जन आंदोलन का हिस्सा बने और जल संरक्षण के आंदोलन को और मजबूत बनाएं।”

- Post Mentioned in X handle

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

”





## Foreword



**T**he month of March marks a significant turning point in the evolution of Jal Jeevan Mission i.e from rapid coverage expansion to a strengthened framework focused on service delivery, sustainability and systemic reform.

The Union Cabinet's approval for the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission as JJM 2.0, accompanied by structural reforms and an enhanced financial outlay, reflects the Government of India's continued commitment to ensuring safe, adequate and sustainable drinking water to every rural household. This extension provides States and UTs the policy clarity, fiscal certainty and institutional backing needed to consolidate achievements while addressing emerging challenges related to functionality, water quality assurance and source sustainability.

March witnessed an important shift in public engagement strategy with first Jal Mahotsav campaign. Celebrated as a 15 day national campaign from 8 March (International Women's Day) to 22 March (World Water Day), Jal Mahotsav establishes a structured annual platform for citizen participation. Going forward, this campaign will be observed every year with a dedicated theme aligned to the Mission's evolving priorities, reinforcing the central role of communities, women, local institutions in sustaining water services and annual maintenance of rural piped water supply infrastructures.

A key highlight of the month was the Jal Mahotsav national level event graced by the Hon'ble President of India, where exemplary efforts made by stakeholders and beneficiaries were recognised across six distinct categories, celebrating innovation, leadership and excellence.

Community involvement activities such as Jal Arpan and Sujal Gram Samvad further strengthened engagement and dialogue with communities, reiterating that institutional reforms must be anchored in community ownership, behavioural change and community participation through Gram-Sabha.

The JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines digitally released, while Sujal Gaon ID - a scheme based unique digital identifier that enables complete digital mapping of rural piped water supply assets launched during the month by Union Minister of Jal Shakti.

An important governance milestone during March was the signing of MoUs with 12 States clearly delineating roles, responsibilities and performance expectations under JJM 2.0.

Together, these elements of the month further step towards strengthening accountability and align implementation with measurable outcomes.

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

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation



Note from the desk of

## Additional Secretary & Mission Director...



**M**arch was a decisive milestone for Jal Jeevan Mission, marking a month of renewed energy, clear policy direction, and hyper action across all levels.

The Cabinet approval of JJM 2.0 has provided clarity and momentum to move beyond providing connections and focus on regular, safe and sustainable water supply. With enhanced outlay and reform oriented framework, it is now better positioned to strengthen planning, operation and maintenance at the village level.

Followed by cabinet approval, JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines, released in March offers practical guidance for implementation of reform-based phase highlighting stronger village institutions, improved monitoring, digital tools and greater convergence with other development programmes. The MoUs signed with 12 States further reinforce shared responsibility, with clear expectations on performance, review mechanisms and outcomes.

A major highlight of March was Jal Mahotsav, national campaign. Celebrated as a 15 day nationwide campaign from International Women's Day (8 March) to World Water Day (22 March), it brought together communities, Panchayats, women leaders and frontline workers and other line departments and ministries. Jal Mahotsav is envisaged as an annual national campaign, with each edition built around a theme based on the Mission's status and emerging requirements, ensuring sustained citizen engagement.

Jal Mahotsav national event graced by the Hon'ble President of India was a moment of pride for all Mission teams. Recognition of exemplary efforts across six categories showcased best practices and inspired teams to learn from each other's experiences.

Community dialogue was further strengthened through 5<sup>th</sup> Sujal Gram Samvad, which enabled direct conversations with Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees. These interactions with communities in their own language supported problem solving, local roles and reinforced community ownership. Nationwide Jal Arpan during Jal Mahotsav further complemented these efforts by promoting O&M of rural water supply assets, water conservation and responsible use.

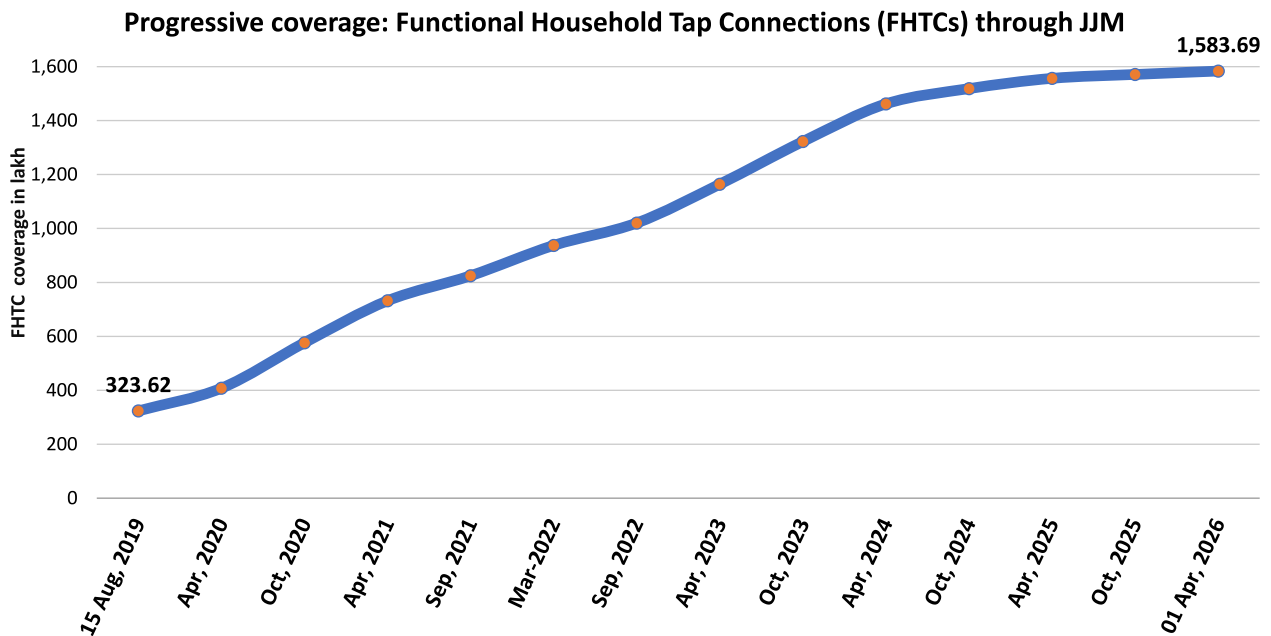
Launch of Sujal Gaon ID will help create a comprehensive village profile, making it easier to track progress, identify gaps and plan targeted support.

This issue of JJM Samvad reflects the progress, reforms and collective effort witnessed in March. As we move forward as JJM 2.0, close coordination between States, districts, Panchayats and communities will continue to be key to securing lasting drinking water services for rural India.

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

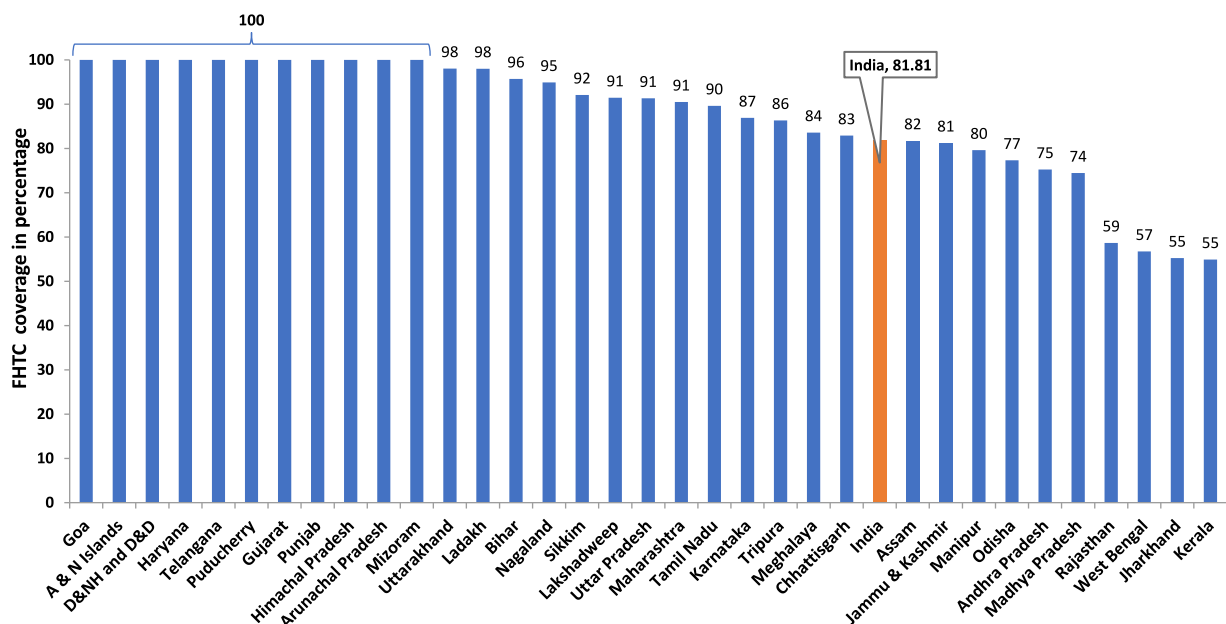


## Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.03.2026)



## Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.03.2026)

**Comparative percentage FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (upto 31.03.2026)**



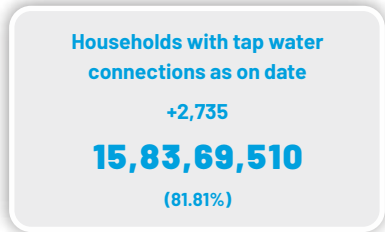
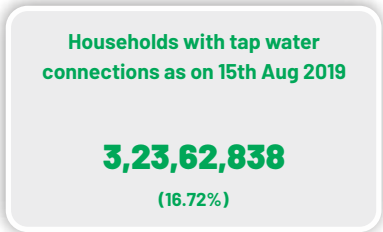
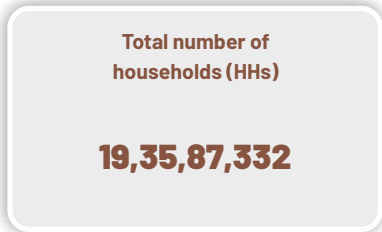
- Graphical representation by Arpan De Sarkar, NPMU-NJMM



# As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026

Source: JIM-IMIS

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



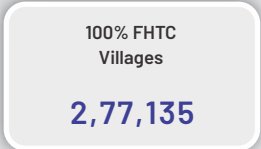
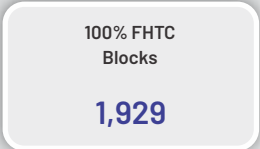
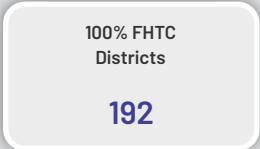
Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

**126,006,672** (78.04%)

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

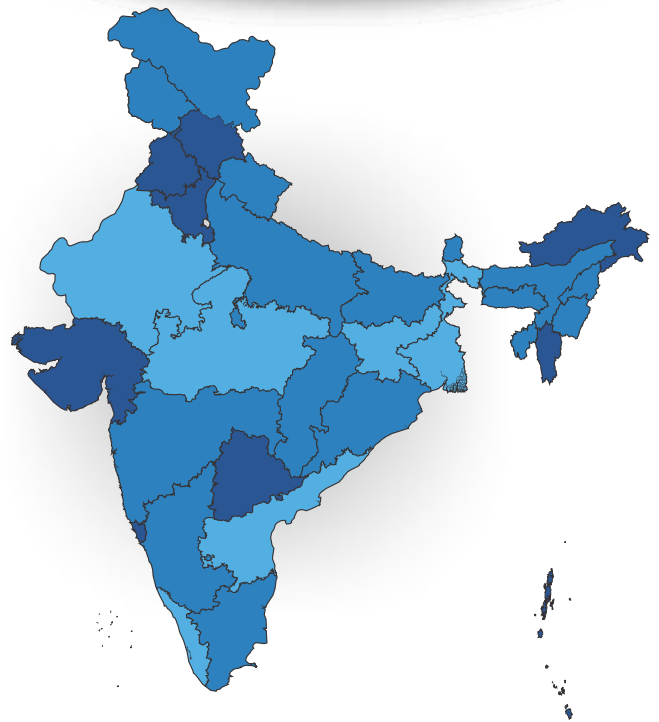
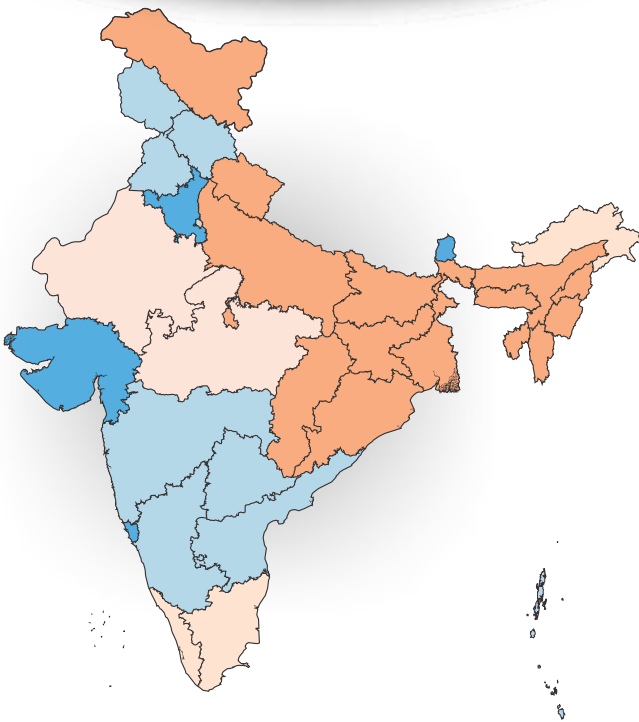
100% FHTC States/ UTs

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



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

### As on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026



0 to <10%

10% to <25%

25% to <50%

50% to <75%

75% to <100%

100%



# Jal Mahotsav Begins As A Nationwide Movement with Jal Arpan

## जल महोत्सव - गाँव का उत्सव, देश का महोत्सव

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

India's relationship with water has always gone beyond utility; it is cultural, spiritual, and deeply rooted in survival and celebration. From rivers revered as mothers to community wells/ponds that once served as social hubs, water has shaped both civilisation and consciousness.

Today, this timeless relationship is being redefined by contemporary realities, climate variability, declining groundwater levels, and increasing demand. These challenges call for more than technical solutions or infrastructure creation alone; they demand a renewed social compact with water, one that places communities at the centre of stewardship and sustainability.

It is in this context that the idea of Jal

Utsav takes shape, not as a one-time celebration, but as a behavioural and social movement. Jal Utsav is envisaged as a people-centric canvas to rekindle the bond between communities and water, transforming awareness into ownership and participation into responsibility. It seeks to reposition water governance beyond administrative frameworks and make it a true expression of Jan Bhagidari.

Jal Mahotsav emerges from within this broader Jal Utsav framework as its structured, nationwide expression. Conceived by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Jal Mahotsav is designed as an annual, time-bound campaign, observed every year from 8 March to 22 March,

aligning with International Women's Day and culminating on World Water Day.

Under the Jal Utsav canvas, Jal Mahotsav serves as the national-level campaign, anchoring coordinated action across the country. At the State level, this spirit is carried forward through Rajya Jal Utsav and Nadi Utsav, focusing on regional water contexts, river systems, and convergence with line departments. At the grassroots, the movement comes alive through Lok Jal Utsav at the Gram Panchayat level, where communities lead activities related to Jal Arpan, water source sustainability, service assessment, and collective pledges for water conservation.

Together, these layers transform Jal



Figure : 1 | Jal Mahotsav Subharambh from Navsari, Gujarat | Source: NJJM

Utsav from an idea into action embedding celebration with accountability, and tradition with sustainability. Jal Mahotsav thus is not merely an event, but an organising framework, one that celebrates water while reinforcing collective responsibility, and transforms water from a passive resource into an active, shared national commitment.

The campaign's tagline - "गाँव का उत्सव, देश का महोत्सव", beautifully captures its essence: when villages celebrate water, the nation moves forward.

In the early hours of 8th March morning in Villages of India, the air carried a quiet sense of anticipation. Women gathered in vibrant attire, school children lined the pathways, and Gram Panchayat representatives stood ready, not merely for a ceremonial event, but for a moment of collective significance. As the programme began, it was not just the inauguration of a campaign; it was the beginning of a shared commitment.

This is the spirit of Jal Mahotsav 2026, where water is not only celebrated, but consciously entrusted to communities.

### A Beginning with Meaning: Starting of Jal Mahotsav with nationwide Jal Arpan

The Jal Mahotsav 2026 commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> March, aligning with International Women's Day, and was observed across the country as Sujalam Shakti Diwas with nationwide Jal Arpan (handing over of water supply assets to Gram Panchayats).

From Navsari, Gujarat, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, marked the Shubharambh of the campaign through the observance of

Jal Arpan Diwas. Parallel programmes unfolded across the country, with Minister of State Shri V. Somanna participating from Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, and Minister of State, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary joining from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Similarly senior officials from DDWS attended Jal Arpan in other locations.

At its core, Jal Arpan is a powerful administrative and social milestone, the formal handing over of rural drinking water supply assets to Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs). This moment signifies more than decentralisation. It represents:

- ◆ Trust in community institutions,
- ◆ Shift from implementation to ownership, and
- ◆ A move towards sustainability rooted in local responsibility

When a water supply system is handed over, it is not just infrastructure that changes hands, it is accountability, pride, and taking responsibility.

### Women at the Centre: The Emergence of Sujalam Shakti

The decision to mark the beginning of Jal Mahotsav on International Women's Day carries deep significance. Across rural India, women have historically borne the burden of water collection, walking long distances, often at the cost of time, health, and opportunity.

Today, that narrative is changing. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, women are emerging as leaders in water governance. Over 24 lakh women are trained in water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs), women are active members of VWSCs, Self Help

Groups (SHGs) are contributing to awareness, monitoring, and maintenance

During the inauguration of the campaign, this transformation was visible. Women not only welcomed dignitaries but confidently demonstrated water testing processes, shared their experiences, and engaged in dialogue. Sujalam Shakti is not just a theme, it is a lived reality across villages.

### Blending Tradition with Transformation

One of the most striking aspects of Jal Mahotsav is how it draws from India's cultural traditions to reinforce modern governance goals.

Ceremonies such as Kalash Poojan, Jal Walk, Jal Bandhan, Jal Sankalp are thoughtfully integrated into the celebration.

At water infrastructure sites, sacred threads tied during Jal Bandhan symbolise a collective vow to protect community assets. Kalash Poojan reflects reverence for water, while Jal Sankalp transforms intent into commitment.

These practices bridge the gap between emotion and action making water conservation not just a policy directive, but a shared cultural value.

### Pan India Observance

#### i. Navsari, Gujarat

Marking the subharambh of Jal Mahotsav, Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the campaign from Village Rahej in Gandevi Block of Navsari district, Gujarat, with the observance of Jal Arpan Diwas, symbolising handing over of drinking water asserts to Gram Panchayat to strengthen community ownership of rural



drinking water systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Shuharambh of Jal Mahotsav coincides with International Women's Day, observed as "Sujalam Shakti Diwas."

Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, congratulated women on the occasion of International Women's Day and acknowledged their growing leadership in water governance. He highlighted the transformative impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission in improving health, dignity and quality of life in rural India. He said that more than 24 lakh women are actively engaged in water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs). Emphasizing the importance of 'Jal Sanchay', he called upon citizens to promote rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and responsible use of water, and encouraged people across the country to actively participate in Jal Mahotsav to strengthen the movement for water conservation.

Shri Ishvarsinh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Narmada Water Resources and Water Supply, Government of Gujarat, shared the State's perspective on strengthening water supply systems and community participation during the occasion.

The gathering was also addressed by Shri Nareshbhai Patel, Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Development, Khadi, Cottage and Rural Industries, Government of Gujarat.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission, DDWS, Shri Hari Narayan Murugan, Director, NJJM accompanied Union Minister Shri Patil during the Shuharambh of Jal Mahotsav at Navsari.

The exhibition stalls at Navsari showcased this transformation vividly. Women demonstrated FTKs with confidence, explaining water quality parameters and safe drinking

practices. These are not just statistics; they are stories of empowerment women who once walked miles for water now ensuring its safety for their entire village.

A short film on the occasion of International Women's Day observed as Sujalam Shakti Diwas was screened highlighting efforts undertaken to strengthen rural water supply systems. The short film was screened portraying women at the centre of the Jal Jeevan Mission and highlighting how access to tap water connections has reduced the burden of fetching water, empowering women and strengthening rural households.

During the programme, a Kalash Poojan ceremony was performed by the dignitaries, symbolising respect for water and the collective commitment towards water conservation and responsible water management.

The programme also included



Figure : 2 | Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti addressing from Navsari, Gujarat | Source: NJJM



recognition and felicitation of community contributors, including Self Help Group (SHG) members, Village Water and Sanitation Committee members, youth volunteers, village women doing water quality testing and pump operators, who have played an important role in the operation and

maintenance of rural drinking water systems.

This was followed by a Jal Sankalp pledge, where villagers collectively reaffirmed their commitment towards water conservation and responsible management of drinking water infrastructure. Through Jal

Arpan ceremony the drinking water supply assets are handedover to

GP, representing strengthened community ownership of rural drinking water supply systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



Figure : 3 | Jal Kalash by Shri C.R. Patil, MoJS and other dignitaries at Navsari, Gujarat | Source: NJJM

## ii. Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

In Karli village of Parulebazar GP, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, Shri V. Somanna, MoS, Ministry of Jal Shakti participated in Jal Mahotsav activities including Jal Walk, community interactions, Jal Pujan, Jal Bandhan, at village water infrastructure sites, at the event site Jal Sringar, demonstrations on water quality testing using Field Test Kits, Jal Sankalp, Tree Pujan and recognition of community viz. SHG members,

VWSC, masons, youth volunteers and Pump Operators are done along with awareness programmes on water security.

Shri Nitesh Rane, Minister of Fisheries and Ports, Government of Maharashtra (Guardian minister of Sindhudurg), Shri Deepak Kesarkar, MLA, Shawantwadi Constituency also joined the event. Shri Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM accompanied Minister of State, Shri V Somanna during the Shubharambh of Jal Mahotsav at

Navsari.

During the celebration Shri V. Somanna, MoS, Ministry of Jal Shakti drank water directly from the tap and in his address, he shared that the test of water is so good, and the quality is maintained under JJM that we can drink it directly because the water is being treated before supply. He appreciated the community and urged to work for rainwater harvesting.





Figure : 4 | Jal Kalash by Shri V. Somanna, MoS, MoJS & dignitaries at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra | Source: NJJM



Figure : 5 | V. Somanna, MoS, MoJS drinking water directly from tap at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra | Source: NJJM

### iii. Muzaffarpur, Bihar

In Fhakuli Haat village of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, MoS, Ministry of Jal Shakti joined villagers in Jal Mahotsav events including Jal Chaupal dialogues, Jal Bandhan, Jal Sapath, discussions on Jal Seva Aankalan and recognition of women pump operators and community members engaged in maintaining rural drinking water systems. Shri Kedar Prasad Gupta, Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, also joined the event. Shri Ananjay Tiwari, Deputy Secre-

tary, NJJM accompanied Minister of State Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary during the Shubharambh of Jal Mahotsav at Navsari.

Addressing the gathering in Muzaffarpur, the Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, MoS, MoJS, appreciated the enthusiastic participation of local Matri Shakti and highlighted the important role of women in strengthening water governance and community-led water management. He said the Jal Mahotsav initiative aims to promote Jan Bhagidari through Gram

Panchayat and encourage water conservation practices. Highlighting the transformative impact of Jal Jeevan Mission, he said that the expansion of tap water connections in rural households has improved health, dignity and quality of life, particularly by reducing the burden on women who earlier spent long hours fetching water. Emphasising the need for responsible water use, he called upon citizens to actively participate in water conservation and ensure the sustainability of rural drinking water systems.



Figure : 6 | Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, MoS, MoJS at Muzaffarpur, Bihar during Jal Arpan | Source: NJJM

### iv. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Y. K. Singh, Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission, attended the Jal Arpan celebrations at Jalalpur Didar village, held in the presence of Smt. Meenu Sharma, Sarpanch, and officials of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM). The programme underscored the critical role of Jan Bhagidari (community

participation) in ensuring the sustainability of rural drinking water supply systems.

Emphasis was laid on water conservation, responsible use of drinking water, and the importance of regular water tariff collection to support effective operation and maintenance of village water supply infrastructure. Community members actively

participated in the Jal Arpan celebrations, reaffirming their collective commitment towards sustainable water management and long-term stewardship of village water assets.

As part of the celebration Jal Bandhan was also observed at the village water supply infrastructure, during which sacred thread was tied, symbolising





the collective resolve of the community to protect and sustain drinking water assets. In a gesture reinforcing public trust in the quality of water supplied under the JJM, Shri Y. K. Singh, Director, NJJM drank

water directly from the tap, underscoring the importance of water quality assurance, regular monitoring and community-led operation and maintenance. The moment resonated strongly with villagers,

reinforcing confidence in treated water supply systems and inspiring continued community ownership of rural drinking water services.



Figure : 7 | Jal Arpan Activity in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM



Figure : 8 | Jal Arpan Activity in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM



## v. Kamrup, Assam

Dr. Ankita Chakravarti, Deputy Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), participated in the Jal Arpan Diwas celebrations at the Natun Batiapara Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWSS) in Chayani Moniari village, Maliata Gram Panchayat, Kamrup district, Assam.

The programme was attended by Shri Siddhartha Goswami, CEO, Zila

Parishad, Kamrup, Smti Sharmistha Neog, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kamrup, along with senior officials of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), including the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer and SDO, PHED.

During the visit, Dr. Chakravarti inspected the PWSS infrastructure and interacted with Jal Mitras, members of the local community, a

five member women-led Field Testing Kit (FTK) group, and representatives of the Cluster Level Federation (CLF)-Self Help Group, which is engaged as the Implementing Support Agency (ISA). The interactions highlighted the critical role of community institutions, particularly women, in ensuring water quality monitoring, system upkeep and the long-term sustainability of rural drinking water services under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



Figure : 9 | Jal Arpan at Kamrup, Assam | Source: NJJM



Figure : 10 | Jal Arpan at Kamrup, Assam | Source: NJJM





## vi. Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab

Shri Umesh Bhardwaj, Deputy Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), attended the Jal Arpan programme organised in Majri Kishan Wali village, Fatehgarh Sahib district, Punjab, marking an important step in strengthening community ownership of rural water supply systems on 8<sup>th</sup> March, marking inauguration of Jal Mahotsav. The

event highlighted grassroots leadership and celebrated the contributions of women who play a critical role in ensuring water quality, system functionality, and community awareness at the village level.

As part of the programme, Women Water Champions, Women Sarpanches, and Field Test Kit (FTK) testers were felicitated in recognition of their sustained efforts in water

quality monitoring, operation and maintenance, and community mobilisation under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The occasion also saw the launch of a statewide social media awareness campaign (08–22 March) aimed at promoting water conservation, safe water practices, and citizen engagement across Punjab, thereby reinforcing the message of community led water security and responsible water use.



Figure : 11 | Jal Arpan Activity in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab | Source: NJJM



Figure : 12 | Jal Arpan Activity in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab | Source: NJJM



## vii. Faridabad, Haryana

Shri Sumit Priyadarshi, Deputy Advisor, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), attended Jal Arpan in Prahladpur Majra Badraula, village, Faridabad, Haryana. The programme was chaired by Smt. Nirmala Devi, Village Sarpanch and attended by PHED officials, district IEC functionaries, village representa-

tives, VWSC members, Anganwadi workers and community members.

During the programme, activities including Jal Arpan and Jal Bandhan were conducted at the village tube well, reinforcing community ownership and protection of drinking water assets. Awareness was created on water conservation, water quality monitoring and safe drinking water

practices, supported by demonstrations on key water quality parameters. A transit walk was undertaken to review the village water supply system and interact with VWSC members. Women community contributors were felicitated for their role in water management.



Figure : 13 | Jal Arpan at Faridabad, Haryana | Source: NJJM

## Way Forward: A Celebration that Becomes a Movement

By institutionalising annual observance (8–22 March), Jal Mahotsav creates, continuity in engagement, reinforcement of behaviours, and sustained community participation.

It ensures that water conservation is not episodic, but ongoing. Jal

Mahotsav 2026 is not merely a campaign, it is a convergence of policy, participation, and purpose.

It brings together government initiatives, community institutions, cultural practices and individual responsibility.

As villages across India celebrate water, they also redefine their relationship with it, from consump-

tion to conservation, from dependence to ownership. Because ultimately, when every Gram Panchayat takes responsibility, when every woman becomes a water leader and when every citizen values every drop water security becomes not just a goal, but a shared reality. In that collective effort lies the pathway to truly Sujalam, and Viksit Bharat



# Glimpses

## Navsari-Gujarat





## Sindhudurg-Maharashtra



## Muzaffarpur-Bihar



## National Event of Jal Mahotsav 2026 held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

**O**n the morning of 10th March 2026, the grand halls of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi witnessed a moment that went far beyond ceremony.

As the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, performed the Jal Kalash ritual, it was not just a symbolic act. It was a reminder, quiet yet powerful that water, in India, has never been merely a resource. It is memory, culture, survival, and increasingly, a shared responsibility.

Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary DDWS, and Shri VL Kantha Rao, Secretary DoWR followed the Jal Kalash ritual and shared the Dias with Hon'ble President.

This moment marked the national celebration through a grand event of Jal Mahotsav 2026, the campaign led

by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, being observed across the country from 8th to 22nd March.

But Jal Mahotsav is not just an event. It is a reflection of a deeper shift unfolding across rural India, where water is no longer something delivered, but something owned, managed, and protected by communities themselves.

For generations, the story of water in



Figure : 14 | Jal Kalash by President of India | Source: NJJM







rural India was of distance and difficulty. In villages spread across arid plains, forested regions, and hilly terrains, water was rarely at the doorstep. It was fetched often from far away. For women and children, especially, it meant long walks, physical strain, and hours lost every single day.

The absence of safe and reliable drinking water quietly shaped lives by affecting health, limiting education, and reinforcing inequality. And yet, India has always understood the value of water.

Echoing this civilisational wisdom, the President recalled the ancient Sanskrit phrase, “आपः सर्वस्य भेषजी;”, water is the source of all well-being and prosperity.

Today, that ancient understanding is finding modern expression through Jal Jeevan Mission, that has redefined access to drinking water across rural India.

Addressing the gathering, hon’ble President highlighted that water is not merely a basic service but a fundamental pillar of health, dignity

and sustainable development. She underlined water’s centrality to India’s cultural and developmental fabric and acknowledged the women-led, community-owned model advancing safe, reliable rural drinking water services under JJM. India’s diverse geographical landscape, from arid regions to mountainous terrain has historically posed significant challenges in ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water in rural areas. For decades, particularly women and children bore the burden of fetching water from distant sources, often affecting their health,



Figure : 15 | Address by President of India | Source: NJJM

*“Access to safe drinking water is fundamental to health, dignity and social progress. The achievements of Jal Jeevan Mission demonstrate how policy, technology and community participation together can transform rural service delivery. The grassroots leaders being recognised today are true champions of this national transformation.”*

Smt. Draupadi Murmu,  
President of India



education and overall well-being.

She appreciated that Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by the Government of India, has brought transformative change by ensuring that safe drinking water reaches rural households through functional tap connections.

She said that the mission's success lies not only in infrastructure development but also in empowering communities to manage and sustain drinking water systems. Gram Panchayats, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Self-Help Groups and trained community members are playing a central role in the operation and maintenance of rural drinking water supply systems.

She also highlighted the growing role of women in rural water governance. Across the country, women trained in the use of Field Test Kits (FTKs) are actively monitoring drinking water quality at the village level, strengthening local capacity and community confidence in drinking water services.

She appreciated the integration of technology in strengthening transparency and efficiency and said that digital platforms such as the Sujalam Bharat App, Real-Time Dashboard, Decision Support System, Meri Panchayat App and Panchayat Dashboard are enabling data-driven planning and ensuring timely information sharing at the Gram Panchayat level.

She stated that the Jal Seva Aankalan initiative is supporting regular assessment of rural water supply systems, while the Nal Jal Mitra programme is providing skill training to local women and youth, enhancing operation and maintenance capacity and creating livelihood opportunities.

The President also underscored the

importance of greywater management, groundwater recharge, and rainwater harvesting, appreciating the role of the Central Ground Water Board in promoting sustainable water resource management.

Marking World Plumbers' Day, she commended the crucial contribution of plumbers in maintaining rural water supply infrastructure. She further appreciated the active participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and urged them to continue supporting community-led efforts for Jal Suraksha, essential for long-term sustainability of drinking water supply systems.

Reiterating the message "Jal Hai to Kal Hai", the President called for collective responsibility to ensure water security for future generations

Congratulating the grassroots leaders and functionaries present at the ceremony, the President said their dedication demonstrates how community participation, technology and effective governance together can transform public service delivery.

For decades, access to drinking water in rural India meant long walks, physical strain, and lost opportunities, especially for women and children. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) changed that narrative by bringing tap water into homes. Today, on a quiet morning in a village home, when a tap opens, it flows more than just water. It carries dignity, health, opportunity, and a quiet revolution that has been building across rural India.

This transformation is not merely the outcome of government investment or infrastructure creation. It has been driven equally by people's participation. Across villages, local leaders, women's groups, pump operators, VWSC members, women trained on water quality and Sarpanches/PRIs

have stepped forward to take ownership of water systems, ensuring that services are not only created but sustained. Their collective efforts turned a national mission into a community led movement.

The national event brought stories from across the country to the national stage, highlighting how local leadership, accountability, and collective action are redefining rural drinking water service delivery. During the ceremony, were presented across six categories:

- ◆ Villages demonstrating Continuous 24x7 Rural Water Supply Excellence
- ◆ Villages demonstrating Exemplary Financial Sustainability through 100% User Charge Collection
- ◆ Women demonstrating excellence in community water quality monitoring using Field Test Kits
- ◆ Outstanding Nal Jal Mitra / Rural Water Supply Operator
- ◆ Distinguished Sarpanch for leadership in rural piped water supply management
- ◆ Self-Help Group representatives contributing to community-led water governance

These recognitions underscored how sustainability rests not only on infrastructure, but on people, systems, and shared responsibility. The stories of those honoured reflected the essence of Jan Bhagidari, where communities take ownership of their water systems ensuring regular operation, financial discipline, and continuous quality monitoring at the village and Gram Panchayat levels. Their work demonstrated that when communities lead, drinking water services become more

reliable, transparent, and resilient.

As part of the national recognition, one leader from each category was honoured by the Hon'ble President of India, symbolising the highest acknowledgement of grassroots

excellence. In addition, ten individuals were recognised by the Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Shri C. R. Patil, for their exemplary contributions that embody excellence in managing and sustaining rural

drinking water systems. Together, these recognitions celebrated not just individual achievement, but a growing nationwide movement where rural India leads the way in securing its own water future.



Figure : 16 | All dignitaries and recognized rural leadership in one frame | Source: NJJM

The details of the recognised rural leaders by Hon'ble President, Smt. Draupadi Murmu are presented in the table below.

Rural Leadership Recognised by President of India			
S. No.	Category	Name	State/ UT
1	Cat 1 - Recognition of Villages Demonstrating Exemplary Financial Sustainability through User Charge Collection efficiently	Rachna Devi	UP
2	Cat 2 - Recognition of Outstanding Nal Jal Mitra / Rural Water Supply Operator	Tsering Dorjey	Ladakh
3	Cat 3 - Recognition of Self-Help Group (SHG) Representative for Exceptional Contribution to Rural Piped Water Supply Management	Anitha	Karnataka





### Rural Leadership Recognised by President of India

S. No.	Category	Name	State/ UT
4	Cat 4 - Recognition of Distinguished Sarpanch for Outstanding Leadership in Rural Piped Water Supply Management	Pinki Rana	Jharkhand
5	Cat 5 - Women Demonstrating Excellence in FTK-Based Water Quality Monitoring	Sangitaben Ashokbhai Deshmukh	Gujarat
6	Cat 6 - Recognition of Villages demonstrating continuous 24x7 Rural Water Supply Excellence	Sheela Suba	Sikkim



Figure : 17 | Recognition of leadership across six categories by President of India | Source: NJJM

The details of the recognised rural leaders by Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil are presented in the table below.

Rural Leadership Recognised by Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti			
S. No.	Category	Name	State/ UT
1	Cat 1 - Recognition of Villages Demonstrating Exemplary Financial Sustainability through User Charge Collection efficiently	Shri. Dharmendra Maran	Madhya Pradesh
2	Cat 1 - Recognition of Villages Demonstrating Exemplary Financial Sustainability through User Charge Collection efficiently	Shri. Devasvarup	UP
3	Cat 2 - Recognition of Outstanding Nal Jal Mitra / Rural Water Supply Operator	Shri. Zakir Ali	Ladakh
4	Cat 2 - Recognition of Outstanding Nal Jal Mitra / Rural Water Supply Operator	Sh. Tikmachand	Rajasthan
5	Cat 3 - Recognition of Self-Help Group (SHG) Representative for Exceptional Contribution to Rural Piped Water Supply Management	Smt. Channamma	Karnataka
6	Cat 4 - Recognition of Distinguished Sarpanch for Outstanding Leadership in Rural Piped Water Supply Management	Shri. Mehtab Singh	Himachal Pradesh
7	Cat 5 - Women Demonstrating Excellence in FTK-Based Water Quality Monitoring	Shri. Falguniben Sanjaybhai Rathod	Gujarat
8	Cat 5 - Women Demonstrating Excellence in FTK-Based Water Quality Monitoring	Smt. Prabha Bai Dhruv	Chhattisgarh
9	Cat 6 - Recognition of Villages demonstrating continuous 24x7 Rural Water Supply Excellence	Smt. Pushpa ThabalCintury	Sikkim
10	Cat 4 - Recognition of Distinguished Sarpanch for Outstanding Leadership in Rural Piped Water Supply Management	Smt. Lakshmi Sahu	Odisha





Figure : 18 | Recognition of leadership across six categories by Union Minister of Jal Shakti | Source: NJJM

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil said that Jal Jeevan Mission has ushered in a historic transformation in rural India by ensuring access to safe and adequate drinking water through functional household tap connections.

He said that safe drinking water has a direct impact on health outcomes, education, sanitation and women’s empowerment, while significantly reducing the time spent on fetching water.

The Minister highlighted that today more than 89 percent of rural schools and over 85 percent of anganwadi centres have access to tap water facilities, ensuring better hygiene and health conditions for children.

He expressed happiness for the Cabinet approval on JJM 2.0 with enhanced financial outlay, which will help connect all rural households with tap water. He referred to the call given by Prime Minister about ‘Karma Bhumi Se Matru Bhumi’ and urged all to work for source



Figure : 19 | Address by Union Minister of Jal Shakti | Source: NJJM

*“Jal Jeevan Mission is not merely about providing tap water connections; it is about empowering communities to manage and sustain their water systems. Jal Mahotsav celebrates this spirit of Jan Bhagidari and recognises the grassroots champions who are ensuring reliable and sustainable rural drinking water services across the country.”*

*Shri C.R. Patil,  
Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti*



Figure : 20 | All dignitaries on Dias during national anthem | Source: NJJM



sustainability and the Mission truly places strong focus on community participation and sustainability, with initiatives such as the Nal Jal Mitra Programme, capacity-building initiatives and local skill development strengthening the long-term operation and maintenance of rural water infrastructure.

The event celebrated the leadership and dedication of communities, PRIs, VWSC members, Sujalam Shakti, Self-Help Groups, and frontline technicians who are playing a crucial role in ensuring sustainable and reliable rural drinking water services across the country.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Ministry of Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State for Ministry of Jal Shakti Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Shri V. L. Kantha Rao, senior officials from DDWS, States and Union Territories, representation from MoPR, MoWCD, MoHFW, AICTE, MSDE, development partners, academic institutions, civil society organisations and grassroots representatives from across the country.

The national ceremony formed a key highlight of the Jal Mahotsav 2026 campaign, a nationwide initiative being observed from 8 March to 22 March to strengthen Jan Bhagidari through GPs and community ownership of rural drinking water systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Secretary, DDWS, Shri Ashok K.K. Meena welcomed the Hon'ble President, Ministers, dignitaries, and community representatives, and highlighted the significance of Jal Mahotsav 2026 being celebrated nationwide from 8th to 22nd March. He said the transformative progress of JJM in providing rural households with safe tap water and emphasized the shift towards sustainability and

community ownership of water services. Referring to the Cabinet approval of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 on 10 March, he said the strengthened framework will further enhance governance and long term reliability. He underlined that today's event celebrates grassroots leaders who have improved water service delivery in their villages, with national recognition being conferred by the Hon'ble President across six categories recognizing excellence in water supply, user charges, water quality monitoring, and local leadership.

Thanking the dignitaries and all participants, he urged the community to actively undertake Jal Seva Aankalan and ensure regular annual maintenance of piped water supply assets. He stated that JJM 2.0 seeks to advance structural reforms through a whole-of-government approach, with a focused commitment towards building a Viksit Bharat.

During the event a thematic film on Water–Health–Nutrition showcased field impact stories and best practices for replication.



Figure : 21 | Secretary DDWS delivering his address | Source: NJJM

### Thematic Sessions in the National Event

The post lunch segment of the national event featured four thematic sessions designed to deepen collaboration and promote knowledge exchange across sectors.

- **Thematic Session 1: Water–Nutrition–Health Convergence**

The first thematic session focused on the critical convergence of water, nutrition and public health. Organised jointly with the Ministries

of Women & Child Development and Health & Family Welfare, the discussion highlighted how safe drinking water directly influences child nutrition and health outcomes. The panel has 8 panelists emphasised the need for district-level institutional mechanisms, improved utilisation of VHSNDs, and joint monitoring frameworks to strengthen water–nutrition–health linkages.

- **Thematic Session 2: Skilled Hands, Safe Water – Strengthening Rural Plumbing**

The second session, aligned with International Plumber’s Day, centred on the Nal Jal Mitra Programme and the professionalisation of rural plumbing services. Experts from DDWS, MSDE and sectoral institutions discussed standardisation of job roles, certification pathways, integration with ITIs/SSDMs, and the growing participation of women plumbers. The session recognised the vital contributions of pump operators, technicians and plumbers in ensuring uninterrupted rural water supply.



Figure : 22 | Panelists of thematic session 1 | Source: NJJM

- **Thematic Session 3: Jal Seva Adhyayan – Youth as Water Ambassadors**

The third session, led by AICTE, brought together academic institutions, students and policymakers to advance the Jal Seva Adhyayan initiative. Participants shared insights from field exposure, highlighted opportunities to integrate rural water themes into engineering curriculum and discussed ways to nurture youth leadership in water governance. The session underscored the role of students as ambassadors for sustainable water practices.



Figure : 23 | Panelists of thematic session 2 | Source: NJJM

- **Thematic Session 4: Sustainable Greywater Management**

The fourth and final session focused on sustainable greywater management and community-led solutions. The session was moderated by Smt. Aishwarya Singh, JS & MD, SBM-G, DDWS. Discussions covered different kinds of low-cost on-site technologies such as soak pits, leach pits and community-level systems, along with long-term O&M models. The panelist from Namami Gange shared how nature-based solutions are suitable for rural areas. CDD shared how decentralized water treatment needs to be institutionalized. Representatives from selected Gram Panchayats shared their initiatives being taken on



Figure : 24 | Panelists of thematic session 3 | Source: NJJM

greywater management. The Session reinforced community led structures with ownership and system sustainability.



Jal Mahotsav 2026 is not defined by dates or events. It is defined by what it represents, i.e a shift in thinking, a shift in responsibility, a shift in how development is experienced.

The message is consistent: India's water future will not be secured by systems alone, it will be secured by people who care, participate, and take ownership. Through Jal Mahotsav, the Government of India seeks to further deepen Jan Bhagidari through GPs, strengthen community ownership of drinking water infrastructure, and advance the vision of Sujal Gram across rural India, ensuring that every village continues to receive safe, adequate and sustainable drinking water services.



Figure : 25 | Panelists of thematic session 4 | Source: NJJM



## New Dawn for Rural Water Supply Canvas: Union Cabinet's approval on extension of JJM up to December 2028

- Sumit Jha, Under Secretary, NJJM & Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

When Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in August 2019, it carried a simple yet transformative promise of 'Har Ghar Jal'. At that time, in rural areas clean drinking water through taps in their homes was a distant aspiration for millions. Women spent hours fetching water, households depended on uncertain sources, and waterborne diseases quietly shaped everyday life.

Six years later, India has achieved remarkable progress in terms of the coverage of rural households with tap water connections. To give further impetus to these efforts, on **10 March 2026**, the **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister**, approved extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till **December 2028**, with **enhanced financial outlay and a restructured implementation framework** aimed at strengthening the rural drinking water supply sector. The extended phase of the Mission, referred to as **JJM 2.0**, will **focus on structural reforms to ensure reliable, sustainable and citizen-centric delivery of safe drinking water services** in rural areas.

The Cabinet has approved **enhancement of the total outlay of the Mission to ₹8.69 lakh crore, including Central assistance of ₹3.59 lakh crore** which has been increased from the earlier approved Central outlay of ₹2.08 lakh crore in 2019. Enhanced financial commitment reflects the Government's continued priority towards ensuring safe and adequate



drinking water supply for rural households across the country.

**Under the restructured framework**, the Mission will place greater emphasis on service delivery and long-term sustainability of rural water supply systems. Moving beyond infrastructure creation, **JJM 2.0 will strengthen drinking water governance and institutional mechanisms, improve operation and maintenance of water supply systems, and promote community-led management to ensure regular supply of safe and potable tap water** to rural households.

A key component of the JJM 2.0 is Digital Public Infrastructure under which a uniform national digital framework "**Sujalam Bharat**" is being

established to **digitally map** the entire rural drinking water supply system **from source to tap**. Under this framework, each village and service area will be assigned **unique Sujal Gaon and Service Area IDs**, enabling comprehensive digital mapping of water supply assets and improving **transparency, monitoring and asset management**.

The Mission will continue to strengthen community participation in water governance. Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) will be actively involved in commissioning water supply systems, and **schemes will be formally handed over** to them through the "**Jal Arpan**", only after 15-30 days trial run for sustainable



service delivery.

To reinforce community ownership and sustainability of water sources, the Mission will also continue community-led “Jal Utsav”, encouraging villages to celebrate water security achievements and strengthen collective responsibility towards water conservation and source sustainability. The Jal Utsav is a three-tier annual campaign that includes Jal Mahotsav at national level, Rajya Jal Utsav/ Nadi Utsav at State level and Lok Jal Utsav at GP level.

**Jal Seva Aankalan (JSAn)**, a community-led, digitally enabled evaluation under JJM 2.0, JSAn empowers Gram Panchayats and VWSCs to assess service functionality, adequacy, water quality compliance, institutional readiness, and financial

sustainability of rural water supply. Validated by Gram Sabhas and reviewed through DTUs/ DWSMs/ SWSMs, JSAn findings-submitted via the Panchayat Dashboard, drive targeted improvement plans and serve as a key performance indicator.

An independent, **third-party scheme** assessment by engineering institutions, **Jal Seva Adhyayan** provides technical verification of infrastructure quality, operational performance, water quality compliance, and household-level service delivery. Faculty-mentored field assessments are uploaded on JJM-IMIS, offering objective evidence that complements community feedback and strengthens outcome-focused governance under JJM 2.0.

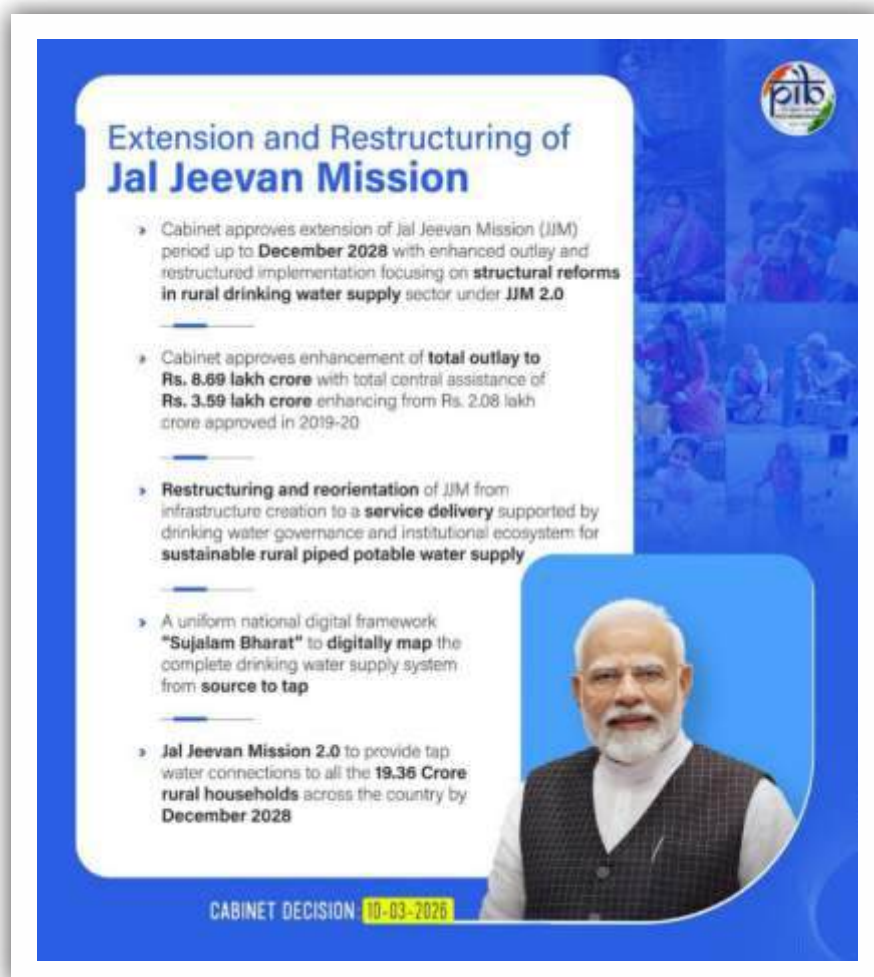
As part of the strengthened implementation framework, Central

assistance to States and Union Territories will be extended only after **signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** outlining commitments related to governance reforms, service delivery standards and sustainability measures. Under this framework, **scheme wise funds will be released** to States and UTs upon fulfillment of agreed upon commitments and milestones.

Under JJM 2.0, every State/ UT is required to **notify a comprehensive O&M Policy** that establishes clear service standards, empowers Gram Panchayats and VWSCs as micro utilities, and ensures availability of financial and technical support for sustained service delivery. The policy formalises cost recovery mechanisms, preventive maintenance schedules, and institutional roles across micro and macro utilities, reinforcing long term functionality, quality compliance, and reliable rural water services.

The **Commissioning and Handing Over Protocol** under JJM 2.0 ensures that no rural water supply scheme is declared complete without rigorous system testing and a certified minimum 15-day trial run. The protocol mandates structured pre commissioning checks, pressure testing, flushing, disinfection, equipment stabilisation, and community orientation before formal handover to Gram Panchayats or VWSCs. This process strengthens transparency, O&M preparedness, and long term functionality.

**SNA SPARSH** is the reformed, just in time fund flow architecture integrating PFMS, State IFMIS, and RBI’s e Kuber platform to enable scheme wise, milestone linked digital payments under JJM 2.0. By synchronizing with JJM IMIS, it supports transparent, real time financial monitoring, automatic reconciliation, and strict adherence to funding



**Extension and Restructuring of Jal Jeevan Mission**

- ▶ Cabinet approves extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) period up to **December 2028** with enhanced outlay and restructured implementation focusing on **structural reforms in rural drinking water supply** sector under JJM 2.0
- ▶ Cabinet approves enhancement of **total outlay to Rs. 8.69 lakh crore** with total central assistance of **Rs. 3.59 lakh crore** enhancing from Rs. 2.08 lakh crore approved in 2019-20
- ▶ **Restructuring and reorientation** of JJM from infrastructure creation to a **service delivery** supported by drinking water governance and institutional ecosystem for **sustainable rural piped potable water supply**
- ▶ A uniform national digital framework “**Sujalam Bharat**” to **digitally map** the complete drinking water supply system from **source to tap**
- ▶ **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0** to provide tap water connections to all the **19.36 Crore rural households** across the country by **December 2028**

CABINET DECISION 10-03-2026



patterns. The system significantly reduces idle balances and strengthens audit readiness.

The vision of JJM 2.0 is to ensure that all Gram Panchayats across the country are certified as 'Har Ghar Jal', signifying universal access to functional household tap connections in rural areas. The Mission is progressively transitioning towards a citizen-centric, utility-based rural water service delivery system, ensuring reliable supply of safe drinking water at prescribed service levels.

Under JJM 2.0, States and UTs will undertake aquifer based planning, conduct seasonal source reviews, and implement risk based interventions to strengthen water source sustainability. They will prepare water budgets at the Gram Panchayat level and develop (near, short and medium term) Sustainability Action Plans. A Decision Support System (DSS) for source sustainability, integrating CGWB, NAQUIM and IMD datasets, will guide recharge measures, catchment protection and climate resilient actions through convergence with national and State schemes.

States and UTs will strengthen an intensive capacity building model, with NJJM/SPM NIWAS as hubs and SIRDS, ATIs and district training centres as spokes. Continuous training will be provided to PRIs, VWSCs, operators and lab staff. The Nal Jal Mitra Programme will develop a local O&M cadre, supported by multi skill technicians, operator diplomas and micro skilling of women for FTK testing. Blended learning, field demonstrations and exposure visits will be institutionalised.

States and UTs will adopt clear O&M financing models. Cost rationalisation measures, such as energy audits, preventive maintenance,



NRW reduction and staffing optimization will support financial discipline. Digital dashboards will strengthen monitoring, while PPP and annuity approaches will be promoted for large bulk water supply systems.

The initiative also supports the Government's broader Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, by strengthening rural infrastructure, improving public health outcomes, and ensuring long-term water security for rural communities.

Reacting to the Cabinet decision, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, highlighted the transformative impact of the Mission on rural India. In a message shared on his X handle, the Prime Minister said: "The Cabinet decision on Jal Jeevan Mission marks a major step towards ensuring sustainable and reliable tap water supply for rural households across India. It shifts the focus from only infrastructure creation to citizen-centric service delivery supported by strong local governance and digital monitoring. The move will strengthen water security, improve health outcomes and empower rural communities, especially our Nari Shakti."

With the extension of the Mission, the Government aims to ensure tap water connections to all 19.36 crore rural households across the country by December 2028, thereby strengthening efforts towards universal access to safe drinking water in rural India.

JJM was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 15 August 2019 during his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 73rd Independence Day. The goal of JJM is to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). The Mission envisages supply of drinking water at a service level of 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality i.e BIS: 10500 on a regular and long-term basis. It marks a paradigm shift from the earlier focus on creating water supply infrastructure to ensuring reliable, quality, equitable, and sustainable service delivery at the household level.

At the time of launch of the Mission, only 3.23 crore rural households (about 17%) had access to tap water. Since then, the Mission has made remarkable progress. As per data reported by States/ UTs, over 15.7 crore rural households more than 81





percent of the total 19.36 crore rural households now have tap water supply in their homes.

The Mission has significantly contributed to improving public health, reducing drudgery for women and girls, and enhancing dignity and quality of life in rural areas. It has also strengthened local water governance through the involvement of VWSCs and community participation in planning, implementation and management of rural water supply systems.

Beyond numbers of tap connections, **independent studies have highlighted the transformative impact of the Mission on rural lives.** According to **SBI Research**, the Mission has helped **relieve nearly 9 crore women** from the daily drudgery of fetching water, as a result women are able to contribute to agriculture. According to an assessment by the **World**

**Health Organization (WHO)**, JIM has the potential to significantly improve public health and social outcomes. The WHO study indicates that universal access to safe drinking water through household tap connections **could save about 5.5 crore hours every day for women, prevent nearly 4 lakh deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, and avert around 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).**

Similarly, research by **Professor Michael Kremer**, Nobel Laureate and development economist, suggests that improved access to safe drinking water under JIM **could reduce under five mortality by up to 30 percent**, potentially saving more than 1.36 lakh young lives each year.

Studies conducted by **IIM Bangalore and the International Labour Organization (ILO)** have also highlighted the economic impact of

the Mission, estimating that JIM has **generated 59.9 lakh direct person-years of employment** and over **2.2 crore indirect person-years of employment** during its implementation.

These findings underline the wide-ranging benefits of the Mission, including improved health outcomes, reduced drudgery, enhanced dignity for women and girls, improved school attendance, and expanded livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

The continuation and restructuring of JIM will further accelerate efforts towards water source sustainability, rainwater harvesting, greywater management, improved water quality monitoring, and capacity building of local institutions, ensuring long-term water security and sustainable rural water supply systems across the country.

## Launching of Sujal Gaon ID, Unique IDs for mapping Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Figure : 26 | MoJS, MoS, Secretary DDWS, AS&MD-NJJM, JS (Water) and other senior officials during the meeting | Source: NJJM

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, chaired a meeting with Ministers of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) / Rural Water Supply (RWS) and Panchayati Raj Departments of States and Union Territories on 13 March, to discuss the implementation roadmap of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0. The meeting was also attended by Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The meeting was convened in the backdrop of the Union Cabinet's approval for the extension and restructuring of Jal Jeevan Mission up to December 2028, with an enhanced financial outlay and a set of structural reforms aimed at strengthening service delivery, sustainability and accountability in rural drinking water supply.

During the meeting, Shri C. R. Patil

launched the Sujal Gaon ID - a scheme based unique digital identifier that enables complete digital mapping of rural piped water supply assets. For the first time in the country, every rural drinking water scheme is being assigned a digital identity, bringing rural water supply systems onto a unified national digital platform.

So far, **1.64 lakh Sujal Gaon IDs** have been created across 31 States and Union Territories, linked to 67,000 Sujalam Bharat IDs. Each Sujalam Bharat ID integrates both the scheme infrastructure ID and service area ID, creating a comprehensive digital footprint of rural water service delivery.



Figure : 27 | Launching of Sujal Gaon ID | Source: NJJM



Describing it as a transformative, system changing reform, the Union Minister emphasised that Sujal Gaon ID will significantly enhance transparency, monitoring, and evidence based decision making, and aligns closely with the vision of a technologically empowered Viksit Bharat @2047.

Addressing the meeting, Shri C. R. Patil urged States to ensure timely completion of schemes and strengthen ground level monitoring, underlining that while water is a State subject, the success of the Mission depends on State Governments' accountability in delivering reliable tap water services to rural households.

He highlighted that delays in certain States have arisen due to technical shortcomings and cautioned that expenditure incurred due to oversized or technically non compliant works will have to be borne by the respective State Governments. Emphasizing that State funds are also public money, he called for the highest standards of vigilance, prudence and accountability in planning and execution.

The Union Minister stressed strict adherence to approved technical specifications, expenditure limits and scientific source assessment, stating that these are essential to ensure the long term sustainability of rural water supply systems. He also encouraged States to scale up water conservation and recharge efforts, especially in regions facing seasonal water stress.

Highlighting that quality of work is as critical as quality of water, he called upon States to focus on completing all sanctioned works, ensuring workmanship standards, and preparing time bound plans for early completion. He reiterated that the conditions laid down in the MoU provide a structured pathway for



Figure : 28 | Virtual meeting with PHED/ RWS/ PR ministers of State/ UTs | Source: NJJM

reforms and must be followed in letter and spirit.

Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, underscored the pivotal role of States and Union Territories in delivering a citizen centric rural water supply model, supported by structural reforms that strengthen source sustainability, improve operation and maintenance, and ensure long term functionality.

Emphasising the importance of Panchayati Raj Institutions in asset management and local accountability, he said that under JJM 2.0, Jan Bhagidari will remain at the core, driven through initiatives such as Jal Arpan and Jal Utsav. He highlighted that the Mission will deliver significant socio economic benefits, including reduction in women's drudgery, improvements in public health, creation of rural employment, and achievement of universal tap water coverage by December 2028, aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047.

Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, stated that the Union Cabinet's approval for extension and restructuring of JJM up to December 2028 reflects the Government's firm commitment to rural water security. He noted that JJM 2.0 will prioritise

decentralised, Gram Panchayat led water governance, supported by robust operation and maintenance (O&M) systems and strengthened accountability.

He explained that implementation will be anchored through State/UT specific MoUs, with central funding being milestone based and conditional. Highlighting digital and governance reforms, he said the Sujalam Bharat national digital architecture will enable source to tap mapping of the entire rural water supply chain using Sujal Gaon IDs and Service Area IDs, allowing real time monitoring and transparency.

He added that Jal Seva Ankalan will serve as the principal instrument for village level service assessment, while citizen oversight will be strengthened through the Meri Panchayat application. Gram Panchayats, he emphasised, will certify Har Ghar Jal status only after sustainable O&M arrangements are in place, making long term functionality a mandatory requirement under JJM 2.0. Calling for a whole of government approach, he urged convergence across departments to secure sources and strengthen rural water security.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD,

NJJM presented the key reforms under JJM 2.0 and the modalities for fund release. He informed that the Mission's total financial outlay has been increased from ₹3.60 lakh crore to ₹8.69 lakh crore, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening rural drinking water services nationwide.

The next phase of the Mission, he said, will focus on quality of infrastructure and effective operation and maintenance, with strong emphasis on community participation and local ownership to ensure sustainability.

He also highlighted the need for active participation by States and districts in Jal Mahotsav activities, including Jal Arpan, DWSSM meetings, preparation of service improvement plans, formation of District Technical Units (DTUs), preparation of Rajya Jal Utsav calendars, organisation of Lok Jal Utsavs at Gram Panchayat level, and district level leadership participation.

He informed that release of central funds under JJM 2.0 will be strictly conditional upon States and UTs meeting four mandatory requirements:

- Signing of the MoU



Figure : 29 | Participants during the virtual meeting | Source: NJJM

- Creation of Sujal Gaon IDs for complete digital mapping
- Timely financial reconciliation
- Notification of State O&M policies

He further outlined the funding modalities, which include Upfront Payment Mode for Single Village Schemes (SVSs) and schemes in quality affected areas; Reimbursement Mode for ongoing Multi Village Schemes (MVSs) and Bulk Water Supply Schemes; and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for annuity based PPP models. No central assistance will be

provided for retrofitting of schemes.

The MoU, he added, lays down clear commitments across policy reforms, asset management, planning and financing, digital systems, skilling of the rural water workforce, water quality monitoring, and community engagement making adherence essential for achieving service standards, sustainability and transparent governance under JJM 2.0.



# JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines Released at Jal Mahotsav 2026 Culmination on World Water Day

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, marked a significant milestone with the digital release of the Operational Guidelines for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 on World Water Day, 22 March as Jal Mahotsav 2026 reached its culmination. The release symbolised the transition of the Mission into its next phase, focused not just on infrastructure creation, but on sustainability, service delivery and community ownership.

Observed as a 15 day nationwide campaign from 8 March (International Women’s Day) to 22 March (World Water Day), Jal Mahotsav 2026 witnessed widespread people’s participation across rural India. Villages across States and Union Territories actively engaged in Jal Arpan the formally handing over of drinking water assets to Gram Panchayats alongside awareness activities, community meetings, water conservation drives and service improvement efforts, reinforcing the spirit of Jal Sanchay se Jan Bhagidari.

The culmination event was graced virtually by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and the Hon’ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, along with senior officials of the Department. On the occasion, a dedicated video documenting the journey and key messages of Jal Mahotsav 2026 was released,

capturing how the campaign energised communities and local institutions around water stewardship.

The release of the JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines marked a defining moment following the Union Cabinet’s approval for the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till December 2028, with an enhanced financial outlay and a renewed emphasis on structural reforms. The Guidelines lay down a clear roadmap for strengthening governance, accountability and long term functionality of rural drinking water systems.

Addressing the gathering, Shri C. R. Patil, Minister of Jal Shakti emphasised that Jal Jeevan Mission is not merely about providing tap connections, but about transforming lives, especially those of women and

children, by ensuring dignity, better health and ease of living. He reflected that while the first phase of JJM achieved rapid infrastructure expansion, experience on the ground has highlighted the need to now focus on sustainability, functionality and reliable service delivery.

“With Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, the focus clearly moves from infrastructure creation to a service delivery oriented approach,” the Union Minister said, underlining that the extended Mission seeks to ensure that rural households receive regular, adequate and safe drinking water on a long term basis.

He further recalled the guidance of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, who has emphasised observing initiatives such as Jal Utsav and Nadi Utsav to turn water conservation into a people



Figure : 30 | Releasing of JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines by MoJS | Source: NJJM



led movement. Jal Mahotsav 2026, celebrated across the country from 8 to 22 March, effectively translated this vision into action, with communities actively participating in awareness drives, water conservation efforts and collective management of drinking water systems.

Speaking on the Reform Linked Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) under JJM 2.0, Shri Patil informed that MoUs are being signed with States to ensure effective implementation of structural reforms. He noted that nine States signed MoUs during Jal Mahotsav 2026, reaffirming their commitment to deliver sustainable drinking water services at the village level. He called upon States, districts and Gram Panchayats to work in close coordination to convert these reforms into tangible outcomes.

Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, described Jal Mahotsav 2026 as a campaign that evolved into a nationwide Jan Bhagidari movement, witnessing community meetings, school engagements, awareness drives and Jal Arpan of assets to Gram Panchayats across rural India. He emphasised that water conservation and drinking water service delivery must go beyond campaign periods and become a shared, everyday responsibility.

Highlighting the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Somanna said that access to safe drinking water has emerged as a national priority, and Jal Mahotsav 2026 has further strengthened community engagement. He reiterated that JJM 2.0, with its focus on structural reforms, governance improvements and sustainability, reflects a strong Centre State partnership committed to securing rural water futures.

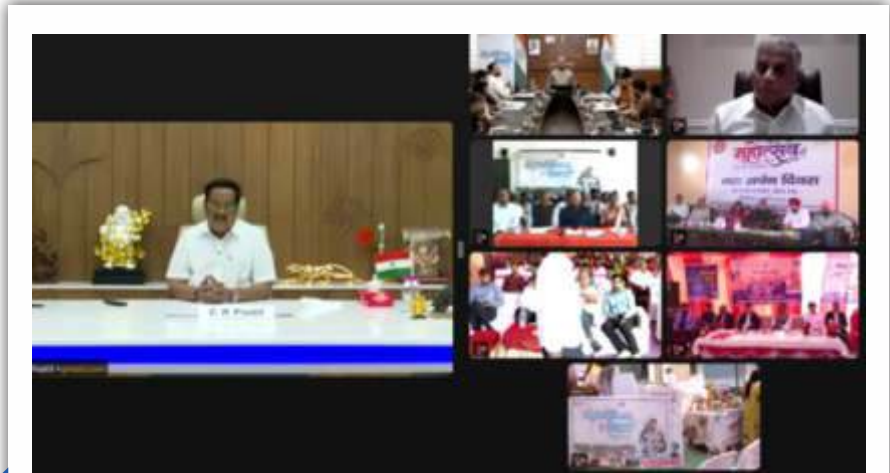


Figure : 31 | Address by MoJS | Source: NJJM

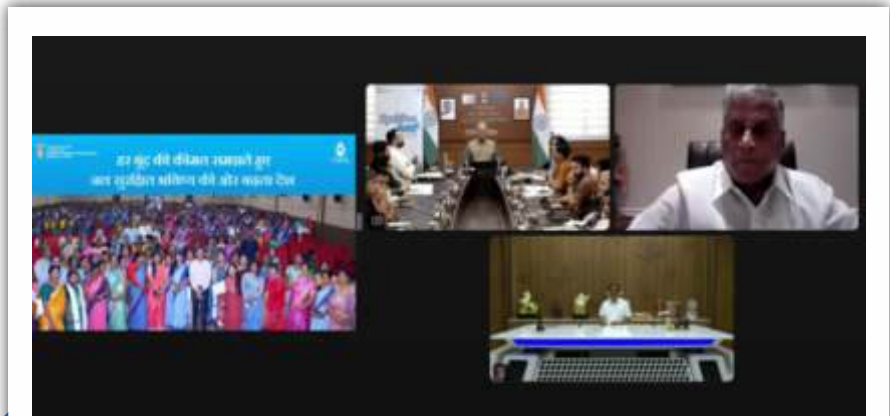


Figure : 32 | Address by MoS | Source: NJJM

He also underscored the importance of water quality, source sustainability and community ownership, and highlighted Sujal Gram Samvad as a powerful platform for strengthening village level water management through dialogue and shared learning.

In his opening remarks, Shri Ashok K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, highlighted that Jal Mahotsav 2026 witnessed extensive community led activities, including large scale cleaning of water sources and tanks, and water quality testing using field test kits. The scale of participation by communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions, he noted, reflects a growing momentum towards making

water governance a people's movement.

He stated that the JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines provide a comprehensive and practical framework for strengthening governance of rural drinking water services. The Guidelines place emphasis on assured service delivery with defined performance standards, clear accountability at State, district and Gram Panchayat levels, and long term sustainability through source protection, water conservation and community ownership.

The Guidelines also underline that without sustainable sources, drinking water services cannot remain reliable, and therefore call for





convergence across rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, grey water management and water conservation efforts.

### Sujal Gram Samvad: Voices from the Ground

As part of the culmination, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sujal Gram Samvad was organised, during which communities from five Gram Panchayats across five States interacted virtually with the Union Minister, Minister of State and senior officials. The dialogue provided valuable insights into ground level experiences in managing drinking water services and sustaining community participation.

Directors and Deputy Secretaries of NJJM DDWS also participated in Jal Arpan and Sujal Gram Samvad activities from fields in Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, reinforcing the Mission's ground to national connect.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission, highlighted that Sujal Gram Samvad under Jal Mahotsav 2026 showcases strong convergence from the grassroots to the national level. He noted that the release of JJM 2.0 Guidelines is a crucial step towards ensuring effective implementation and sustained delivery of safe drinking water services.



Figure : 33 | Address by Secretary, DDWS | Source: NJJM



Figure : 34 | Officials of DDWS digitally engaged through Sujal Gram Samvad with community | Source: NJJM

As Jal Mahotsav 2026 concluded on World Water Day, the Ministry called upon all stakeholders viz. States, Panchayats, communities and citizens to carry forward the spirit of

'Jal Sanchay se Jan Bhagidari'. The shared vision remains clear: to make every village a Sujal Gram, ensure Har Ghar Jal, and contribute meaningfully to the larger national aspiration of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

# Fifth Edition of Sujal Gram Samvad: Strengthening Community Ownership Through Local Language Dialogue

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

The fifth edition of Sujal Gram Samvad was organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, during the culmination of Jal Mahotsav 2026 on World Water Day, 22 March. Conducted virtually in local languages, the Samvad brought together communities from five Gram Panchayat headquarter villages across five States, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to participatory water governance and community led service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The platform connected Gram Panchayat representatives, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), women from Self Help Groups, Nal Jal Mitras, frontline workers, State Mission Directors, District Collectors, and officials from across States and Union Territories. Directors and Deputy Secretaries of NJJM DDWS were present on the ground in select villages in Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, interacting directly with communities in their local languages and linking village level discussions to the national level virtual dialogue, ensuring that grassroots voices were heard and responded to in real time.

Extensive community gatherings were also organised at the Gram Panchayat level, keeping local voices at the centre of the interaction and reinforcing collective ownership of

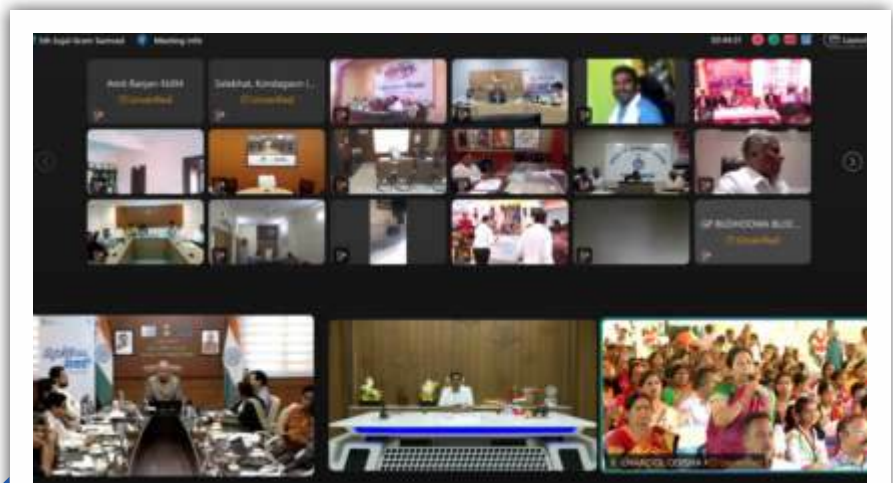


Figure : 35 | MoJS, & MoS interacting with community | Source: NJJM

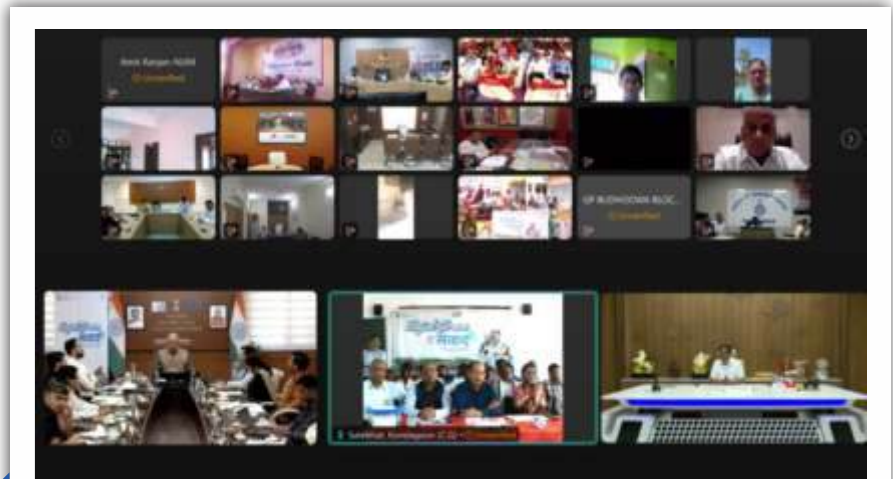


Figure : 36 | Virtual interaction with community in local language | Source: NJJM

rural drinking water systems.

But beyond participation numbers, the fifth Sujal Gram Samvad reflected a deeper shift—the evolution of Jal

Jeevan Mission from infrastructure creation to sustained, accountable service delivery.



# Uttarakhand



## Hatnur, GP-Hatnood, District- Pauri Garhwal



- 💧 24X7 gravity-based water supply
- 💧 Community contributions utilised for O&M of water supply system.
- 💧 Regular water quality monitoring
- 💧 Improved health and hygiene

The Samvad began with an interaction from Hatnur village in Uttarakhand, where Shri Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM DDWS, engaged with the Sarpanch, Anganwadi Worker, school students, pump operator and community members. Speaking in the local context, the Sarpanch highlighted the successful implementation of a 24x7 gravity based water supply system, ensuring uninterrupted access to drinking water for all households.

The Anganwadi Worker shared that regular water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs) and periodic cleaning of storage tanks have become routine practices. The pump operator explained how the village O&M team restores supply promptly even during heavy rainfall or system

disruptions. Community members noted that local financial contributions, decided during village meetings, support repair and maintenance.

School students spoke candidly about how tap water at home and in schools has improved hygiene, saved time, and allowed them to focus better on their studies, reflecting the everyday impact of reliable water services.



Figure : 37 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

## Haryana



### Village & GP -Tepla, District – Ambala



- Community contributes ₹40 per household as monthly user charge
- Tube well based water supply system with quality mandates
- Universal coverage of water supply
- Active VWSC, looks after water quality, O&M, regular supply etc.

Ms. Ankita Chakraborty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM, DDWS interacted with VWSC members, Sarpanch and villagers of Tepla, Ambala, Haryana. Community members shared regular water quality testing using field test kits and highlighted that ₹40 per household per month as user charges are collected for operation and maintenance. Issues like leakages, pump servicing addressed promptly.

During the interaction, the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti also engaged with Sarpanch and enquired about water availability, quality, household coverage and sustainability of the system. In response, it was informed that all households are connected through a tube well based system, water is safe, regular chlorination is carried out, and community contributions in

support maintenance.

District Magistrate Shri Ajay Singh Tomer stated that universal tap water coverage has been achieved, with strong monitoring mechanisms in place. He highlighted the active role of VWSCs and emphasised that regular testing, chlorination and timely maintenance are ensuring reliable and sustainable water supply.

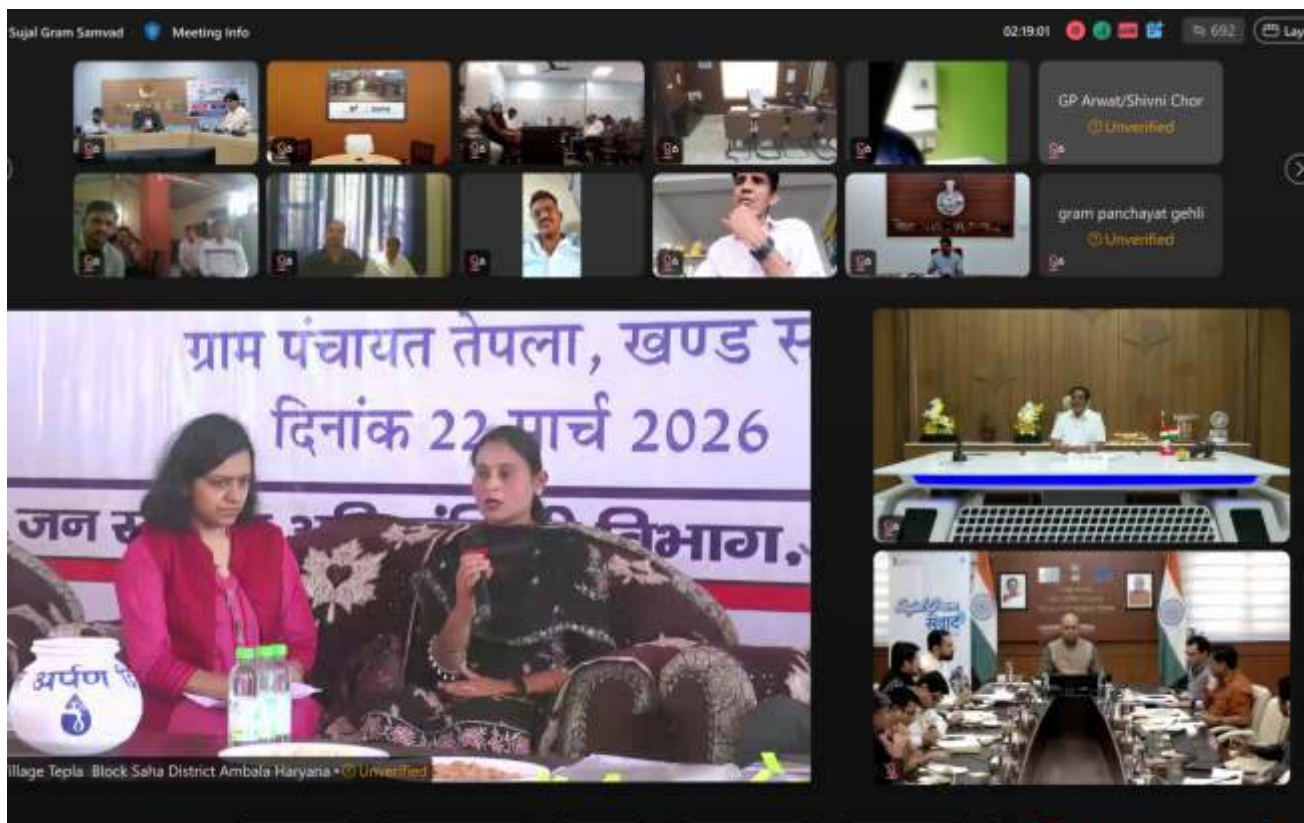


Figure : 38 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM



# Chhattisgarh



## Salhehat, GP - Salhehat, District - Kondagaon.



- Community contributes ₹50 per household as monthly user charge
- Active involvement of women and village institutions
- Despite challenging terrain and connectivity issues, steady progress is being made

From Chhattisgarh, Shri Umesh Bhardwaj, Deputy Secretary, NJJM, DDWS, was present on the ground and interacted with the Sarpanch and community members. Sarpanch and community shared that functional tap water connections have been provided to all households, schools, AWCs with active participation of women representatives and village institutions. Community members highlighted that user charges of ₹50 per household per month are being collected to support operation and maintenance, and trained local operators ensure timely repairs and smooth functioning of the system. They also shared that improved water access has reduced hardship and encouraged responsible usage of water at the household level.

District Magistrate Smt. Nupur Rashi Panna highlighted that despite challenging terrain and connectivity issues, steady progress is being made

across villages. She informed that a significant number of schemes have been certified, while work is ongoing in remaining areas. She emphasised the importance of strengthening technology-based monitoring, ensuring transparency and promoting community participation to sustain the gains of the mission.

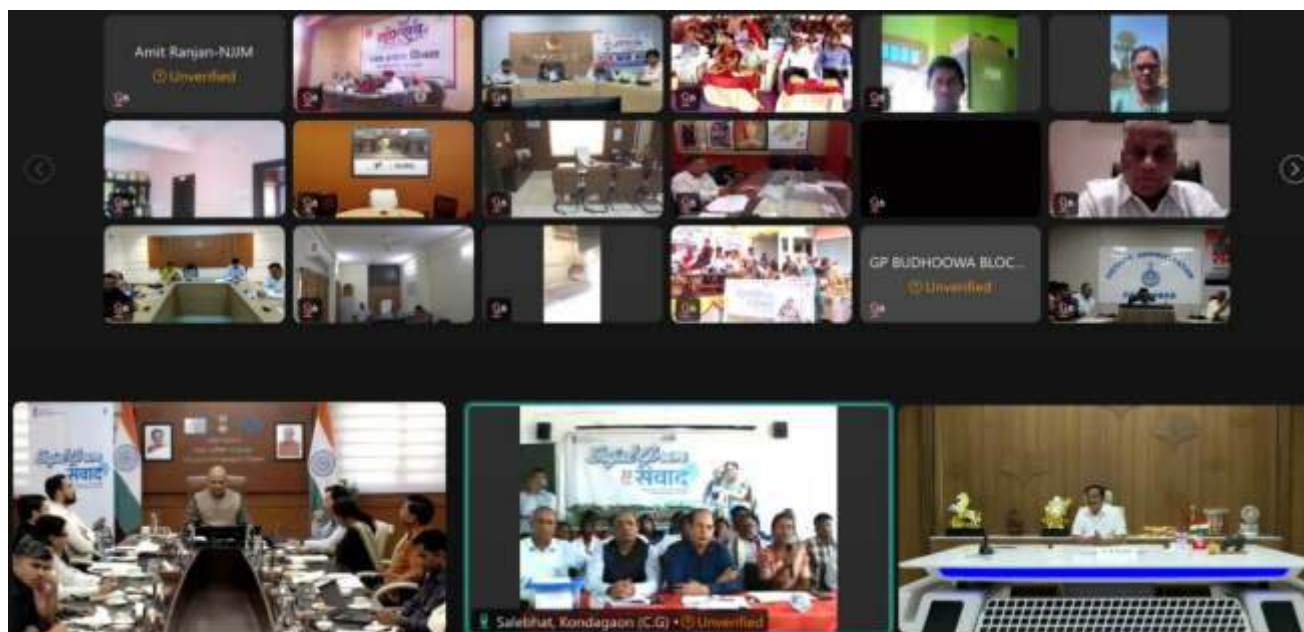


Figure : 39 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM

## Odisha



### Bhanagan, GP- Chandol, District- Kendrapara



- Community contributes ₹50 per household as monthly user charge
- Water supply in schools has contributed reduction in girl's dropout rate
- Women & girls have more time and quality of life enhanced
- Focused service delivery & quality

For Odisha, Shri Ananjay Tiwari was present in person at Bhanagan village, Chandol GP, Kendrapara district and facilitated the interaction with Panchayat, district administration and community members. Secretary, DDWS, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena initiated the interaction with the Sarpanch and villagers in Odia, enabling better understanding of ground realities. The Sarpanch shared that regular review meetings of VWSCs are conducted and ₹50 per household per month as user charges have been passed in Gram Sabha. He stated that improved water access has led to better health outcomes.

Community members, including students, especially girls, highlighted that reliable water supply has reduced the burden of fetching water and improved hygiene and school attendance. They are now confident that

they can pursue their hobby, study and lead a better life.

The District Magistrate Shri Raghuram R. Iyer further informed that regular monitoring mechanisms are in place, with close coordination between departments, and emphasised continued focus on service delivery, water quality and strengthening local institutions to ensure sustainability of rural water supply systems.



Figure : 40 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM



## Madhya Pradesh



### village & GP - Hardot, District-Raisen



- Community contributes ₹100 per household as monthly user charge
- Regular DWSSM meetings addresses challenges
- Both groundwater and surface water used as water supply sources
- Water quality testing by trained women

Shri Sumit Priyadarshi, Deputy Adviser, NJJM, DDWS, interacted virtually with community members and officials. It was informed that significant progress has been made under the Jal Jeevan Mission with large-scale household tap water connections. The Hon'ble MLA who was present there for Jal Arpan also highlighted improved access to safe drinking water through tap connections at houses has led to ease of living of women.

Sarpanch shared that user charges of ₹100 per household are being collected for operation and maintenance, while beneficiaries said that water quality testing is being done by FTK trained women.

District Magistrate Shri Arun Kumar Vishwakarma informed that regular

monitoring through VWSC meetings, along with water conservation and recharge measures, is ensuring sustained drinking water supply in the area, with the remaining household connections being completed on priority. He reiterated that Jal Mahotsav has strengthened Jal Sanchay as Jan Andolan.

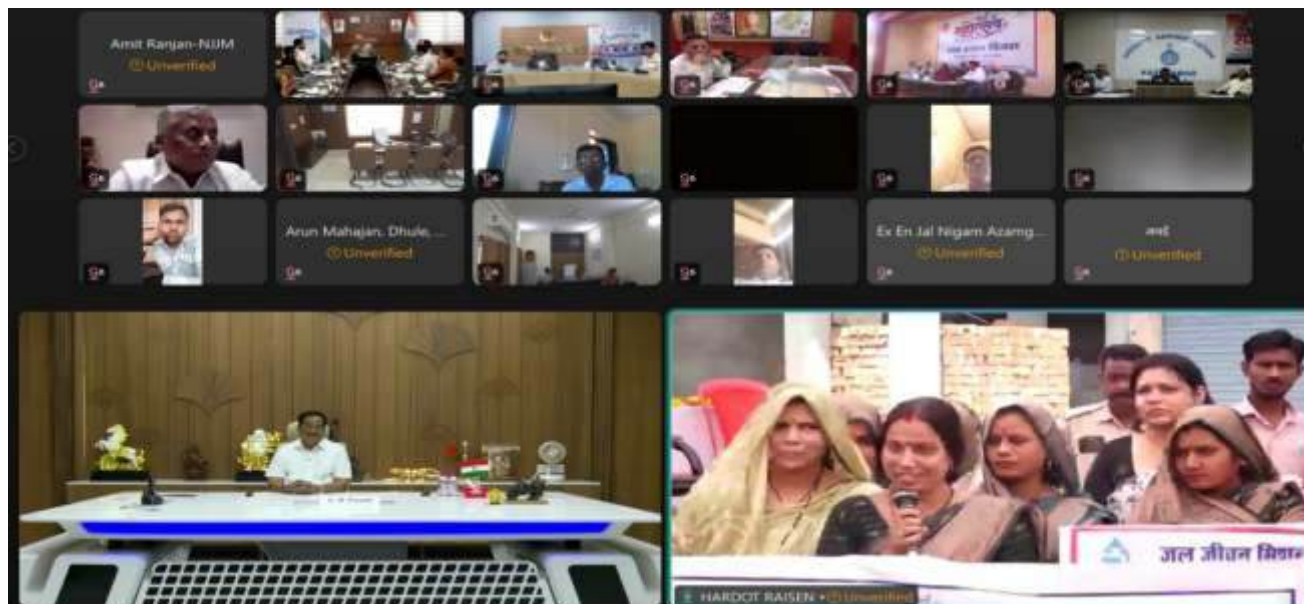


Figure : 41 | Dialogue by community in local language | Source: NJJM



# Consultative Committee Reviews Progress of JJM and Roadmap towards JJM 2.0

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Figure : 42 | Union Minister of Jal Shakti chairing the meeting, along sides both Minister of State | Source: NJJM

A meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Jal Shakti was held on 24 March 2026 in New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil. The meeting was attended by Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Ministers of State for Jal Shakti.

The meeting provided an opportunity for members to take stock of the progress, impact and future direction for Jal Jeevan Mission. A detailed presentation outlined how the Mission has transformed rural drinking water access and is now entering a decisive phase focused on sustainability, service delivery and long term functionality was presented by DDWS officials.

During the discussions, members were apprised of the significant

strides made under the Mission in strengthening drinking water security in rural India. Improved access to safe water has contributed to a reduction in water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid, while also supporting better child health, nutrition and school attendance as per studies. Members noted that reliable tap

water supply has eased daily hardships, particularly for women and children, and has improved overall quality of life in rural areas.

Members were informed that the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till December 2028, with an enhanced total outlay of ₹8.69 lakh crore. The



Figure : 43 | Meeting of consultative committee | Source: NJJM





restructured JJM 2.0 represents a strategic shift, from rapid infrastructure creation to sustainable, reliable and quality service delivery, ensuring that taps continue to flow on a regular basis for years to come.

The meeting highlighted that JJM 2.0 seeks to institutionalise reforms that strengthen governance, accountability, monitoring and community ownership of rural water supply systems.

Several critical reform areas were discussed during the meeting, including:

- ◆ Establishing **digital data governance** in rural drinking water systems through the development of a national digital public infrastructure, Sujalam Bharat
- ◆ Adopting a **utility based approach** for professional drinking water service delivery
- ◆ Strengthening **Gram Panchayat led governance** and community ownership
- ◆ Institutionalising **water quality monitoring and citizen engagement**
- ◆ Ensuring **financial sustainability** through robust Operation & Maintenance (O&M) systems
- ◆ Strengthening **district level technical capacity** through District Technical Units (DTUs)
- ◆ Integrating **source sustainability and water security frameworks**
- ◆ Shifting from event based mobilisation to **structured participatory governance through Jan Bhagidari**
- ◆ Developing a **capacity building framework for continuous service improvement**



Figure : 44 | Meeting of consultative committee | Source: NJJM

Members iterated that these reforms together lay the foundation for resilient and accountable rural water services.

#### The Consultative Committee reviewed key milestones achieved so far under the Mission:

- ◆ Focus has shifted from infrastructure creation to **service delivery**, ensuring a minimum supply of **55 litres per capita per day (LPCD)** of potable water.
- ◆ Coverage has expanded from habitation based to **household level access**, bringing tap water connections to every rural household.
- ◆ As of **March 2026, 15.82 crore rural households (about 82%)** have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), compared to **3.23 crore households (17%) in 2019**, reflecting nearly a five fold increase.
- ◆ **Over 28 lakh kilometres of pipelines** and millions of assets have been **digitally mapped and geo tagged**, enhancing transparency, monitoring and planning.

The meeting also discussed how **community participation and communication strategies** are being strengthened under JJM. Initiatives such as **Jal Arpan and Jal Utsav** are deepening community ownership, while awareness campaigns through **schools, community radio and digital platforms** are helping build public understanding and responsibility for water management.

Members of the Consultative Committee offered valuable suggestions during the deliberations, which the Ministry assured would be considered carefully. The Union Minister called upon all stakeholders viz. States, local governments, communities and elected representatives to work in close coordination to achieve the vision of **Har Ghar Jal** in a **time bound, sustainable and people centric manner**.

As India moves into the next phase of the Jal Jeevan Mission, the emphasis remains clear: **infrastructure is the foundation, but sustained service delivery is the true measure of success**.



# Reform-Linked MoUs: 12 States Step Forward to Anchor JJM 2.0 in Accountability and Service Delivery

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM & Aniketa Sattavan, NJJM

In March 2026, as India marked a decisive transition in its rural drinking water journey, an important shift quietly took shape, not in pipelines or infrastructure, but in the way water services will be governed, delivered and sustained.

With the Cabinet approval of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, the focus has moved firmly from creating assets to ensuring reliable, regular and accountable service delivery. At the heart of this transition lies a significant milestone: the signing of reform-linked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the Government of India and 12 States during Jal Mahotsav 2026.

More than a procedural step, these MoUs reflect a shared commitment between the Centre and States to institutionalise transparency, strengthen governance systems and ensure that every rural household not only gets a tap connection but continues to receive safe and adequate drinking water.

During Jal Mahotsav 2026, 12 States i.e. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya and Maharashtra formally signed reform-linked MoUs with the Government of India.

These MoUs are anchored in 11 key reform areas, covering institutional architecture, service delivery frameworks, digital governance,

water quality, source sustainability, financial and operational systems, capacity building and innovation ecosystems.

Together, they define a structured pathway for States to transition towards accountable, efficient and sustainable rural water service delivery.

A Strong Message from the Union Leadership - Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, who led the engagements with States, underscored that the Mission is entering a critical new phase, one where quality, transparency and accountability are non-negotiable.

Referring to Parliamentary deliberations, he reiterated the Government's zero-tolerance approach towards irregularities and emphasised that infrastructure must translate into long-term functionality on the ground.

Highlighting the Mission's social impact, he noted that access to tap water has already eased the lives of nearly 9 crore women, freeing them from the daily burden of fetching water. Improved access to safe water, he added, is also contributing to better health outcomes, saving millions of hours and preventing water-borne diseases.

He stressed that the next phase must ensure uninterrupted supply, prompt grievance redressal and sustained service delivery in every village. Given that water is a State subject, he called upon States to take ownership and strengthen implementation on the ground.

The presence of Union Minister and Minister of State (MoS) for Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, during these MoU signings further reinforced the Centre's commitment to close coordination with States.





Figure : 45 | Union Minister of Jal Shakti & Minister of State, Jal Shakti during MoU with States | Source: NJJM

### States Respond: Commitment Across Geographies

The responses from Chief Ministers of various States reflected a strong and positive alignment with the reform agenda of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, while also bringing out diverse regional priorities.



## Rajasthan

Rajasthan was the first State to sign the reform linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

The MoU was signed on 17<sup>th</sup> March, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary, Minister, Public Health Engineering Department, and the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, along with Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and other senior officials from the Centre and the State Government.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the State's commitment to the effective implementation of the Mission, with

a clear focus on timely execution, quality of works, institutional strengthening and the long term sustainability of rural drinking water systems.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, and Shri Akhil Arora, Additional Chief Secretary, PHED Rajasthan.



Figure : 46 | CM, Rajasthan, MoJS, MoS and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



Figure : 47 | Exchange of signed MoU with Rajasthan | Source: NJJM





## Madhya Pradesh

During the MoU signing on 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Mohan Yadav, joined the event virtually, while Smt. Sampatiya Uikey, Minister, Public Health Engineering Department, along with other senior State officials, were present in person. The signing took place in the presence of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the State's commitment to aligning with the national reform agenda under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and stated that Madhya Pradesh would adhere to the provisions of the reform linked MoU, with a focus on strengthening

governance, improving service delivery and working towards the

goal of round the clock (24x7) drinking water supply.



Figure : 48 | CM, Madhya Pradesh, MoJS, MoS and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



Figure : 49 | Exchange of signed MoU with Madhya Pradesh | Source: NJJM

## Uttar Pradesh

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, joined the MoU signing through video conferencing, while Shri Swatantra Dev Singh, Minister of Jal Shakti, Uttar Pradesh, was present in person. The MoU was signed on 18<sup>th</sup> March, in the presence of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, along with other senior State officials.

During his address, the Chief Minister highlighted that prior to the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, only a limited number of villages had access to piped drinking water, and regions such as eastern Uttar Pradesh faced serious health challenges due to poor water quality. He noted that improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation under the Mission has significantly reduced health risks, including issues such as encephalitis. He also pointed out that

better water and sanitation facilities in schools and anganwadi centres have contributed to lower dropout rates, particularly among girls.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment, the Chief Minister assured that Uttar Pradesh will adhere to all provisions of the reform linked MoU, with focused efforts on strengthening rural water supply

systems and ensuring reliable service delivery.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Shri Anurag Srivastava, Additional Chief Secretary, Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.



Figure : 50 | CM, Uttar Pradesh, MoJS, MoS and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



Figure : 51 | CEExchange of signed MoU with Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM



## Maharashtra

For Maharashtra, the Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, joined the MoU signing virtually, along with Shri Gulabrao Patil, Minister of Water Supply and Sanitation, and Smt. Meghna Bordikar Sakore, Minister of State, and other senior State officials on 19<sup>th</sup> March. The virtual signing was also attended by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister highlighted the progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission in improving rural drinking water access across the State. He emphasised Maharashtra's continued focus on ensuring regular and quality water supply, timely completion of works and long term sustainability of rural

water supply systems under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik,

Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Smt. R. Vimla, Resident Commissioner and Secretary of Maharashtra Sadan.



Figure : 52 | CM, Maharashtra, MoJS, and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



Figure : 53 | Exchange of signed MoU with Maharashtra | Source: NJJM



## Gujarat

The MoU was signed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, in the virtual presence of the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Shri Ishwarsinh Patel, Minister of State for Water Supply and Water Resources, and the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, along with other senior State officials.

Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel stated that Gujarat has consistently worked in close cooperation with the Central Government and reaffirmed the State's commitment to adhere to the MoU provisions, with a clear focus on timely execution, quality of works and long term sustainability of rural drinking water systems under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

The MoUs was signed between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, and Ms. Shahmeena Husain, Principal Secretary, Water Supply Department Gujarat. Dr.

Vikrant Pandey, Additional Principal Secretary, CMO Gujarat & Resident Commissioner to Govt. of Gujarat exchanged the MoU.



Figure : 54 | CM, Gujarat, MoJS, and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



Figure : 55 | Exchange of signed MoU with Gujarat | Source: NJJM





## Haryana

Marking a key step in Centre-State collaboration, the Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Haryana was formally signed after Gujarat in the virtual presence of Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Public Head Engineering Department (PHED) Minister Shri Ranbir Gangwa and other senior officials from the State.

The MoU was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, and Shri Mohammed Shayin, Commissioner & Secretary to Government of Haryana, PHED at the office of Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, New Delhi.



Figure : 56 | CM, Haryana, Sharing state insights during MoU  
| Source: NJJM



Figure : 57 | CM, Haryana, MoJS, and DDWS officials during MoU with States | Source: NJJM



## Chhattisgarh

The MoU was signed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, in the virtual presence of the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Arun Sao, and other senior State officials, along with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister highlighted the tribal dominated and geographically remote nature of the State and reaffirmed Chhattisgarh's commitment to providing safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household, with focused efforts on source augmentation, recharge and long term sustainability.

The MoU with Chhattisgarh was signed between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), and Shri Rajesh Sukumar Toppo, Secretary, PHED, Government of Chhattisgarh, and was exchanged by Smt. Shruti Singh, Resident Commissioner.



Figure : 58 | CM, Chhattisgarh, MoJS, and DDWS officials during exchange of signed MoU with Chhattisgarh | Source: NJJM





## Himachal Pradesh

The MoU was signed on 20th March, in the virtual presence of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Mukesh Agnihotri, Er. Anju Sharma, Engineer in Chief, Jal Shakti Vibhag, and other senior State officials, along with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister appreciated the support of the Union Government and highlighted the State's unique geographical and climatic conditions. He emphasised the need for context specific design and implementation of water supply schemes and noted ongoing efforts to empower Gram Panchayats to manage operation and maintenance, including the introduc-

tion of local user charge systems to ensure sustainability.

The MoU with the State of Himachal Pradesh was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Dr. Abhishek Jain, Secretary (JSV), Government of Himachal Pradesh.



Figure : 59 | CM, Himachal Pradesh, MoJS, and DDWS officials during exchange of signed MoU with Himachal Pradesh | Source: NJJM



## Goa

The MoU was signed on 20th march, in the virtual presence of the Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Pramod Sawant, Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister of Social Welfare and Drinking Water, and other senior State officials, along with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of moving beyond infrastructure creation to ensuring reliable service delivery, with a strong focus on water quality and long term functionality. He highlighted the critical role of Panchayats in operation and maintenance, underlining the need for community ownership and financial sustainability of water supply systems.

Appreciating the State’s efforts, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti noted that ensuring safe drinking water in a coastal State like Goa, despite saline conditions, reflects a strong commitment towards reliable and sustainable rural water services.

MoU with the State of Goa was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Shri Sarpreet Singh Gill, Commissioner Cum Secretary (Water Resources), Govt. of Goa.



Figure : 60 | CM, Goa, MoJS, and DDWS officials during exchange of signed MoU with Goa | Source: NJJM



Figure : 61 | CM, Goa, MoJS, and DDWS officials during exchange of signed MoU with Goa | Source: NJJM





## Andhra Pradesh

For Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Kalyan, joined the MoU signing virtually along with other senior State officials on 24th March. The signing took place in the presence of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, who was physically present.

During the interaction, the State

leadership reaffirmed Andhra Pradesh's commitment to the effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and highlighted that the extension of the Mission timeline would help accelerate progress towards universal household tap water coverage. Emphasis was placed on ensuring reliable and sustainable water supply. The Chief Minister also invited the Union leadership to visit Andhra Pradesh to review progress and inaugurate

upcoming drinking water and irrigation projects, including those planned ahead of the Godavari Pushkaralu.

The MoUs were signed and exchanged MoU between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, and Shri Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Special Chief Secretary to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.



Figure : 62 | Exchange of signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh | Source: NJJM



## Odisha

The MoU signing for Odisha witnessed the virtual participation of the Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Shri Rabi Narayan Naik, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Smt. Anu Garg, Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra, Finance Secretary, and other senior State officials on 24th March. The signing took place in the physical presence of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister described the MoU as an important step towards achieving Har Ghar Jal and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat. He highlighted the State's focus on community participation, strengthened monitoring mechanisms and sustainable operation and maintenance of rural water supply systems.

Appreciating these efforts, the Union Minister of Jal Shakti highlighted Odisha's work in strengthening digital systems for improved monitoring and accountability, as well as its initiatives under Jal Shakti Abhiyan for water

conservation and rejuvenation of water sources. He also acknowledged the State's citizen centric initiatives, including helplines, grievance redressal mechanisms and the active role of Village Water and Sanitation Committees in promoting community ownership.

The MoU was signed between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, and Shri Girish S.N, Commissioner cum Secretary, PR&DW Dept, and exchanged by Shri Visal Gagan, Principal Residence Commissioner, Government of Odisha.



Figure : 63 | CM, Odisha, with senior state officials during exchange of signed MoU | Source: NJJM



Figure : 64 | Exchange of signed MoU with Odisha | Source: NJJM





## Meghalaya

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, joined the MoU signing virtually on 28th March, while the signing took place in the physical presence of the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Shri V. Somanna, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, along with other senior officials.

In his address, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Union leadership and shared that Meghalaya, which was earlier among the lowest covered States in terms of rural tap water supply, has now achieved over 83 per cent coverage, attributing this progress to the continued support and guidance of the Government of India. He also highlighted that the State has adopted a Water Policy and established a Climate Council, enabling departments to work collaboratively to address water related challenges.

Emphasising the importance of operation and maintenance, the

Chief Minister assured that the State remains committed to ensuring quality and sustainable drinking water supply to every household in line with the provisions of the reform linked MoU. Appreciating these efforts, the Union Minister expressed confidence that Meghalaya will soon achieve 100 per cent tap water coverage, reflecting the State's strong

commitment to reforms and improved service delivery.

The Reform-Linked MoU was signed and exchanged between Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary (Water), DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Shri Praveen Bakshi, PHE, Government of Meghalaya



Figure : 65 | MoJS, MoS with senior NJJM officials during exchange of signed MoU with Meghalaya | Source: NJJM



Figure : 66 | Exchange of signed MoU with Meghalaya | Source: NJJM

**Linking Reforms to Performance** - A key feature of JJM 2.0 is the introduction of a performance and compliance-linked framework.

Fund releases are now tied to fulfilment of mandatory conditions such as MoU adoption, digital validation of schemes, adherence to technical standards and proper financial reconciliation. This marks a significant shift towards outcome-based implementation, ensuring that investments translate into measurable improvements on the ground.

**Towards a Water-Secure Future** - As highlighted by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, these MoUs represent more than administrative agreements, they signal a joint resolve to build a water-secure India through decentralised, accountable and community-driven systems.

With the Mission extended till December 2028 and supported by enhanced outlay and structural reforms, the focus is now firmly on sustaining gains and ensuring that water services function effectively at the village level.

The signing of reform linked MoUs by 12 States marks a significant milestone in the next phase of Jal Jeevan Mission, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthened

governance and sustained service delivery. More States are expected to join this reform framework in the coming months, further advancing a structured and accountable approach to rural drinking water management under JJM 2.0.

With the Mission's extension till December 2028, supported by structural reforms and an enhanced outlay, the focus now is on ensuring regular, adequate and safe drinking water supply to every rural household through stronger community participation and sustainable operation and maintenance systems. This transition underscores a clear shift from infrastructure creation to long term service assurance, positioning Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 as a robust national model aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

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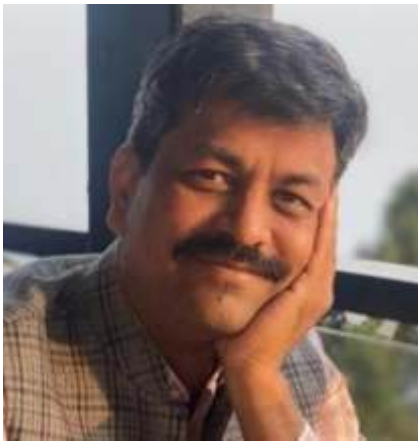
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# From Infrastructure to Service: Skilled Communities Powering the Next Phase of Jal Jeevan Mission

- Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM



**Pradeep Singh**

*“Nal Jal Mitra is not just about training individuals, it is about anchoring water service delivery within the village, where ownership and responsibility naturally reside.”*

As India celebrated Jal Mahotsav 2026, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) stood at a defining moment in its journey. In just a few years, the Mission has redefined rural drinking water access bringing tap water connections to over 15.8 crore rural households, an achievement unparalleled in scale, speed, and complexity. Yet, the next phase of this journey demands a deeper transformation.

As JJM enters Phase 2.0, the focus is decisively shifting from creating infrastructure to delivering reliable, continuous drinking water services, every day, to every household.

This transition was the central theme of the Virtual Orientation Session held on 10 March 2026, organised as part of the Jal Mahotsav campaigns' convergence activities. The session brought together policymakers, technical institutions, skilling agencies, and senior officials from States and Union Territories to deliberate on a critical enabler of sustainable water service delivery under JJM 2.0.

## Why Skilled People Matter More Than Pipes

Piped water systems can only succeed when supported by capable hands on the ground. For water supply, pumps require operators, pipelines must be repaired promptly, and service standards must be upheld daily. Infrastructure, however well designed, cannot function without capable hands and account-

able institutions at the local level.

Under JJM 2.0, drinking water systems are increasingly being reimagined as local utilities. And utilities, by their very nature, depend on skilled human resources, trained operators, technicians, and service managers who reside within the communities they serve.

This is where the Nal Jal Mitra initiative emerges as a cornerstone of the Mission's sustainability framework. Designed to create a cadre of trained village level water service providers, Nal Jal Mitras are envisaged as the first responders and custodians of rural water supply systems ensuring that infrastructure translates into uninterrupted service.

**Nal Jal Mitra: Skilling for Service Delivery**



Figure : 67 | Session in progress | Source: NJJM

The Nal Jal Mitra initiative has been conceptualised as a cornerstone of this institutional transition. It aims to create a cadre of trained village level water service providers, individuals who are not only technically competent, but also socially embedded and locally accountable.

Nal Jal Mitra is envisaged as the first responders and custodians of rural water supply systems. Their role extends beyond maintenance to include system monitoring, early fault reporting, community facilitation, and coordination with Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs).

During the session, Shri Varun Tandon, CEO, Water Management & Plumbing Skill Council (WMPSC), presented an overview of WMPSC's mandate and its support to the Mission. He highlighted the Council's work in developing National Occupational Standards (NOS), curating training content, strengthening trainer and assessor capacity, and establishing Centres of Excellence for water and plumbing skills. He also emphasised WMPSC's readiness to collaborate with States to tailor skill standards to local requirements.

Building on this, Ms. Gunjan Aneja, Vice President, WMPSC, detailed the structure of the Nal Jal Mitra programme, explaining that it is designed as a multi skill qualification with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders. She outlined three key training pathways:

- **Short Term Training (STT)** for rural youth entering the water services workforce
- **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** to certify experienced village plumbers and pump operators

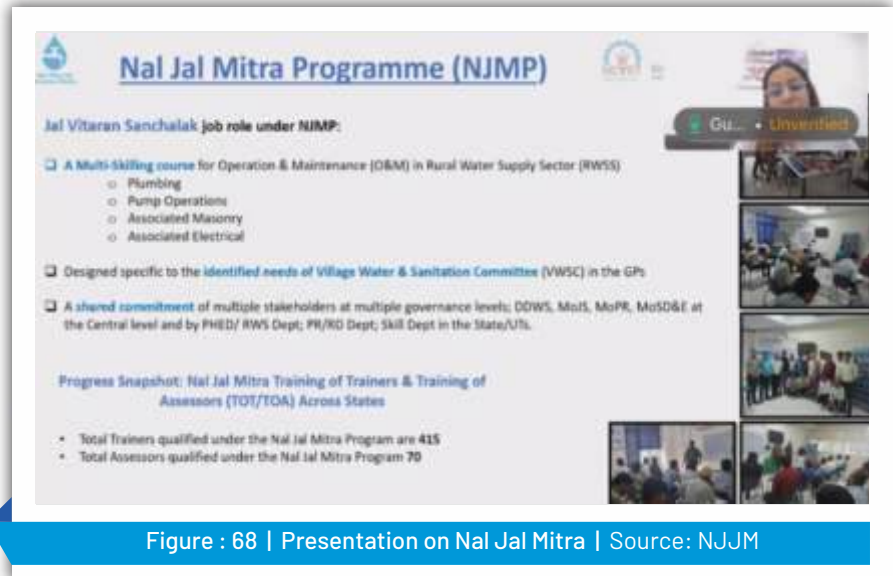


Figure : 68 | Presentation on Nal Jal Mitra | Source: NJJM

• **Upskilling modules** to bridge specific technical and operational gaps

These multi skill qualifications, implemented via the SIDH portal, cover not only technical competencies but also safety, service quality, and system management ensuring readiness for real world conditions.

**From Infrastructure Creation to Service Delivery**

A critical policy perspective was shared by Shri Amit Meena, Director, DDWS, who highlighted the paradigm shift from “infrastructure creation” to sustained “service delivery.” He explained the operational framework under which State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) can leverage PMKVY 4.0 for implementing Nal Jal Mitra training programmes. He also emphasised that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by MSDE ensure uniformity, clarity of roles, and accountability from Gram Panchayats up to State and national institutions.

**Convergence Works Better When Institutions Work Together**

A strong theme that resonated throughout the discussions was

convergence across ministries, institutions, and governance levels.

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) outlined an important academic dimension, announcing the development of minor degree and diploma programmes on Rural Water Supply Systems, aimed at embedding water sector competencies within mainstream education and linking students to emerging rural infrastructure needs.

Similarly, the National Director, RUDSETIs/RSETIs, highlighted how the extensive network of rural training institutes can support last mile implementation by providing accessible platforms for training, entrepreneurship development, and capacity building at the grassroots level.

**From Projects to Public Services: The JJM 2.0 Vision**

The session also reflected on the larger architecture of JJM 2.0, recently approved with an extended horizon till December 2028. The restructured Mission introduces:

- **Reform linked MoUs** with States and UTs





- **Performance based investments**, moving away from blanket funding
- **Digital Service Area / Sujal Gaon IDs** to map assets end to end
- Community led commissioning and formal handover through **“Jal Arpan”**
- Annual **Jal Utsav**, embedding review and maintenance within local culture



Figure : 69 | DDWS interaction during the virtual session | Source: NJJM

Together, these measures place Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) at the heart of water governance shifting ownership from programme implementation to community.

### Ground Realities, Shared Solutions

An interactive exchange with State and district officials brought valuable field level insights, including challenges related to trainer availability, institutional readiness, and operational constraints. These discussions reinforced a simple truth: policy succeeds when it listens. Continuous feedback, adaptability, and sustained handholding will remain essential as JJM 2.0 scales up.

Looking Ahead: Sustaining Har Ghar Jal

Jal Jeevan Mission has already delivered transformative socio economic benefits, reducing drudgery for women, improving health outcomes, and generating rural employment. JJM 2.0 seeks to consolidate these gains by ensuring that every tap delivers water not just occasionally, but every day.

The Nal Jal Mitra initiative symbolises this shift from construction to care, from infrastructure to institutions, and from access to assurance.

By empowering local communities with skills, dignity, and responsibility, the Mission is laying the foundation for sustainable rural water services that will endure well beyond 2028.

As we move forward, the path is clear: Skilled communities, accountable systems, and shared responsibility will define the next chapter of Har Ghar Jal.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

# Strengthening Source Sustainability through Science and Data

Two-Day Orientation Session on Decision Support System (DSS) under Jal Mahotsav

- Dr. Ankita Chakravarty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM



**Ankita Chakravarty**

As part of the wider efforts to strengthen source sustainability under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a two day Orientation Programme on the Decision Support System (DSS) for Source Sustainability was organised on 12 and 13 March 2026 during Jal Mahotsav 2026.

The orientation was structured to address both strategic planning at the State and UT level and field level implementation at the district level, reaffirming the Mission's focus on science based, data driven decision making for long term drinking water security.

### Objectives of the Sessions

Building the context for both days of deliberations, the orientation sessions emphasised that sustainable drinking water security goes beyond infrastructure creation and requires robust scientific assess-

ment, systematic risk evaluation, and evidence based planning at the village, district, and State levels. Participants were introduced to the Decision Support System (DSS) as a powerful planning and decision making tool that integrates multiple datasets to guide source sustainability interventions in a structured and scientific manner.

The sessions were aimed at familiarising State and District officials with the DSS framework for source sustainability, while highlighting the critical role of scientific and geospatial inputs in drinking water planning. Emphasis was placed on demonstrating how multi institutional datasets spanning water quantity, quality, climate, groundwater, and infrastructure can be integrated to enable informed

decision making. Another key objective was to promote convergence across Ministries and programmes, reinforcing that coordinated planning and shared data platforms are essential for achieving long term, sustainable water resource management under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

### Day 1: Virtual Orientation for State and UT Officials (12 March 2026)

The 12th March virtual session was attended by senior officials from State Water and Sanitation Missions (SWSMs) across States and Union Territories. The session aimed to familiarise State level functionaries with the DSS framework, its datasets, analytical capabilities, and its relevance for state wide planning and prioritisation under JJM.

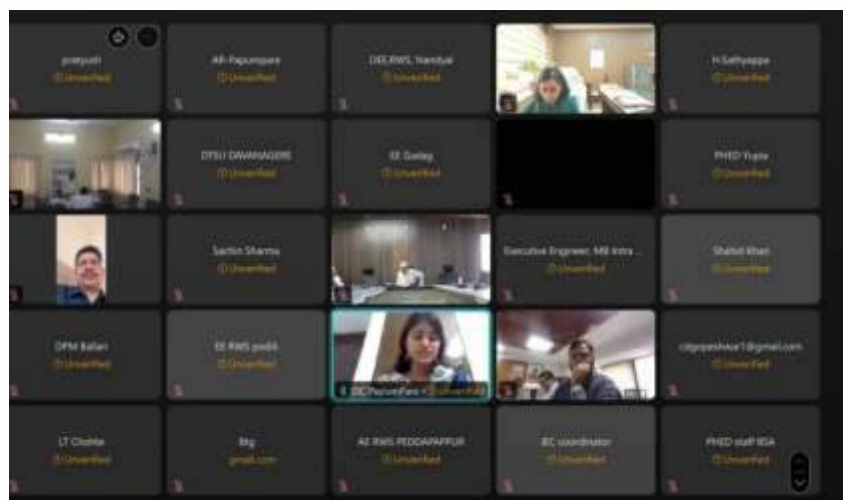


Figure :70 | Participants joined online during DSS orientation | Source: NJJM





### Discussions focused on how DSS can support:

- State level assessment of drinking water source risks
- Prioritisation of source sustainability interventions
- Integration of hydro geological, climatic, and water quality datasets into planning processes
- Alignment of JJM planning with other national and state programmes through convergence

The session reinforced the role of States in embedding scientific tools into policy decisions, annual action plans, and technical approvals, ensuring that drinking water infrastructure investments are resilient and sustainable.

#### • Sustainability of groundwater resources

Shri N. Ashok Babu, Director, NWM, DoWR, RD&GR, offered a detailed discourse on the escalating influence of climate change on groundwater resources. He discussed how erratic rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increasing dependence on groundwater have intensified depletion risks across several regions. He presented analytics from the national “Catch the Rain” and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) campaign, showcasing the progress made through community-led recharge interventions and hyper-local solutions. He reiterated the need for continuous water-use efficiency monitoring and stronger convergence across schemes to mitigate climate-induced pressures on groundwater systems.

#### • Water Criticality Matrix for DSS

Shri Ravi Gumma, Scientist, CGWB, elaborated on the Water Criticality

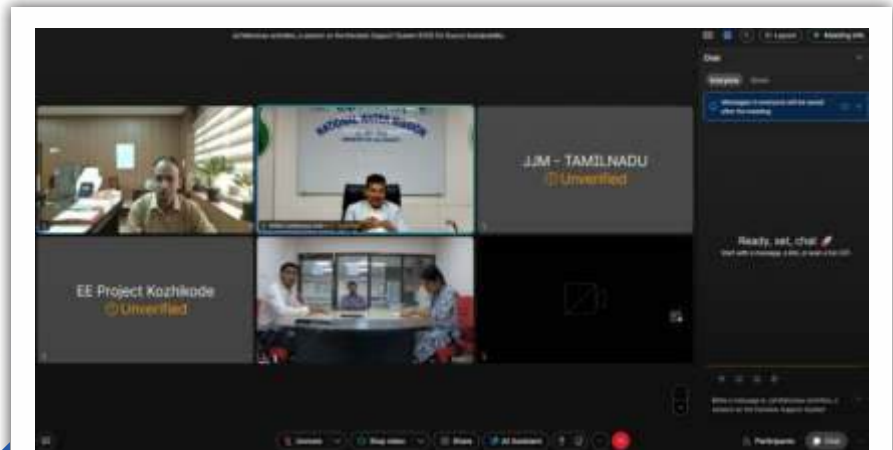


Figure : 71 | Director, NWM, DoWR, RD&GR, sharing his insights | Source: NJJM

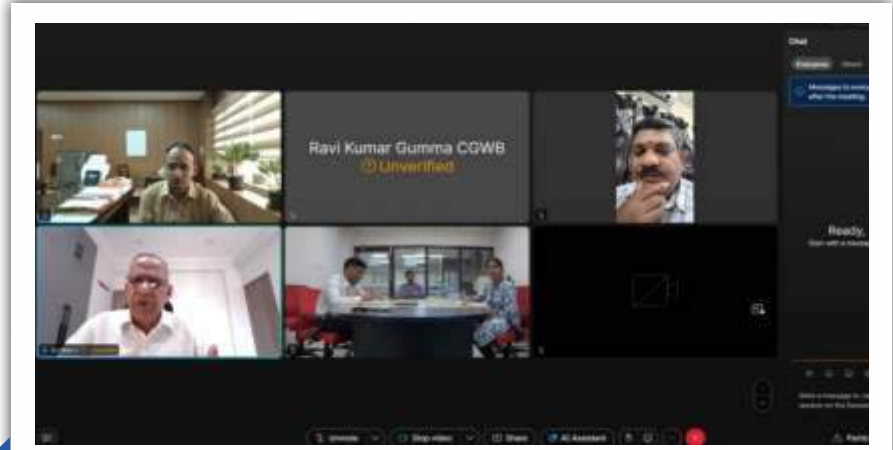


Figure : 72 | Deputy Director, MoAFW, sharing his insights | Source: NJJM

Index, explaining how both quality and quantity dimensions are assessed to categorize areas into Safe, Semi Critical, Critical, and Over Exploited zones. He detailed the methodological matrix applied for these classifications and underlined the importance of robust monitoring networks and ATR-driven groundwater management interventions. He emphasized how these outputs strengthen the DSS and guide States in designing targeted recharge and source sustainability actions.

#### • Water as One Data

Shri Sachin Khuraschey, Deputy Director, NWIC, who focused on the importance of leveraging data-

sharing frameworks for enhancing DSS capabilities. He explained how the concept of “Water as One Data” aims to unify fragmented datasets across institutions, enabling real-time water governance and multi-departmental planning. He also highlighted NWIC’s role in developing standardized data formats, APIs, and digital infrastructure that support States in achieving improved data integrity and interoperability.

#### • Multi-sector data integration

Shri S.C. Bhan, Deputy Director, MoAFW, discussed the importance of multi-sector data integration in creating a unified, data driven water framework. He explained how

integrating meteorological, hydrological, agricultural, environmental, and socio economic data enhances the completeness and accuracy of groundwater and water resource planning. He also presented the WINDS initiative, emphasizing how hyper-local weather networks can strengthen water budgeting, drought preparedness, and irrigation advisories, ultimately improving DSS outputs.

- **GIS based water quality mapping**

Shri Bijoy Chetia, Hydrologist, Assam shared highlighted the Assam’s heavy reliance on groundwater and the key challenges of limited availability, geogenic contamination, and spring depletion. He showcased how JJM Assam uses mobile based field data collection, lithological and aquifer modeling, and the JJM Brain dashboard to guide scientific site selection and groundwater management while adopting deep tube wells in arsenic affected areas and GIS based water quality mapping to ensure safe and sustainable drinking water sources.

- **Convergence for Sustainability**

Shri Kiran Padhy, Consultant, MoRD, addressed the need to strengthen convergence under the VB G RAM G platform for coordinated village-level planning, implementation, and monitoring of water and natural resource management works. He highlighted how enhanced alignment of MGNREGS, and related programs can significantly improve localized recharge outcomes and contribute to long-term drinking water security.

### Day 2: District Level Orientation (13 March 2026)

The District Level Orientation Session was held on 13 March 2026, that brought together District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) officials,

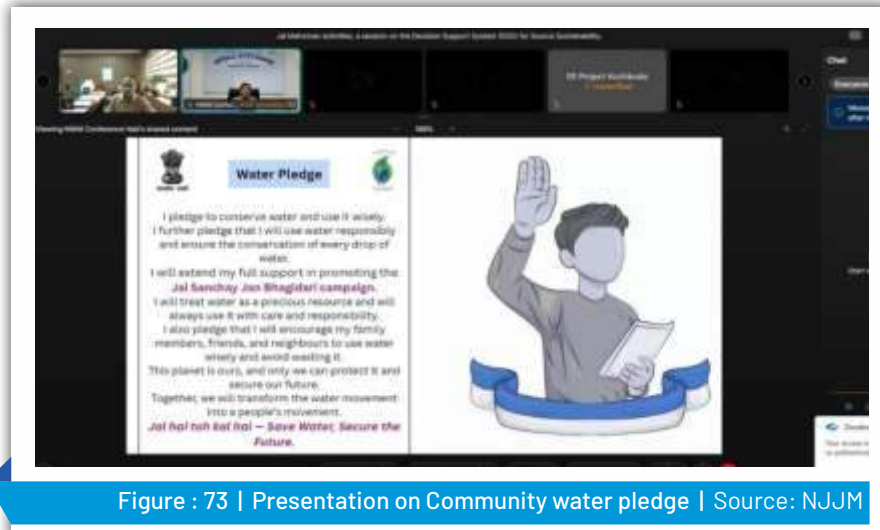


Figure : 73 | Presentation on Community water pledge | Source: NJJM



Figure : 74 | Deputy Commissioner, Papumpare District highlighting district perspective | Source: NJJM

District Collectors, District Magistrates, Deputy Commissioners, along with scientists and experts from national institutions.

This session focused on operationalising DSS at the district and village level, enabling District administrations to use scientific tools for pre approval assessment, risk evaluation, and prioritisation of source sustainability interventions.

- **District level Perspective on DSS Utility**

Ms. Vishakha Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Papumpare District, Arunachal Pradesh, highlighted the district perspective on DSS and said it

as a critical decision making tool for evaluating drinking water sources prior to administrative and financial approvals of schemes.

She emphasised the need for hydro geomorphological and scientific assessment to enhance the longevity and sustainability of water infrastructure investments. The importance of context specific recharge structures, including the use of jack wells in suitable local conditions, was also highlighted.

- **Risk and Safety Assessment of Drinking Water Sources**

Shri Ravi Gumma, Scientist, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB),



presented the village level Risk and Safety Assessment Framework for drinking water security. He elaborated on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) released under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (04 March 2023), classifying areas into Safe, At Risk, Risk, and High Risk categories based on rainfall, groundwater availability, water quality parameters, and long term water level trends.

He informed that village wise risk assessments across 234 districts have already been completed and are being used for prioritising recharge and sustainability interventions.

- **Data Integration and “Water as One Data” Approach**

Shri Sachin Khuraschey, Deputy Director, National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), briefed participants on the “Water as One Data” framework. He explained that multiple Central and State agencies are contributing datasets related to water quantity, quality, climate, groundwater, and infrastructure through the National Water Data Portal (NWDP).

NWIC is supporting BISAG by providing validated datasets, including rainfall, drainage, aquifers, terrain slope, groundwater levels, and water quality, ensuring robustness and interoperability of the DSS platform.

- **Meteorological Inputs and Early Warning Systems**

Dr. Sharvan Kumar Muppa, Scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), presented an overview of IMD’s rainfall monitoring systems, flood forecasting, and flash flood guidance mechanisms. He highlighted the extensive national rain gauge network and generation of rainfall analyses across multiple time

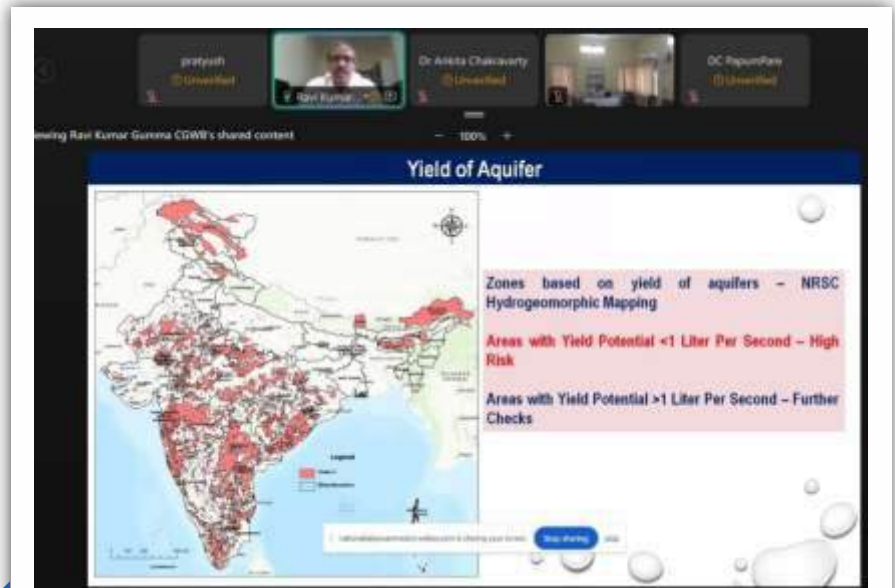


Figure : 75 | Presentation by Scientist, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) | Source: NJJM



Figure : 76 | Presentation by Scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD) | Source: NJJM

scales, supporting water resource planning, disaster preparedness, and policy formulation.

- **DSS Design and GIS based Planning Support**

Shri Arnav Sen, Project Manager, and Dr. Vinay Thakur, Special Director General, BISAG (MeitY), presented the GIS based DSS platform developed for the Jal Jeevan Mission.

**The system enables:**

- Village level risk visualisation for water quantity and quality
- Identification of recharge zones
- Integration of land use and land cover data
- Gap analysis to support evidence based planning at district and block levels

- **Hydro Geomorphological Mapping Support**

Dr. Iswar Chandra Das, Group Director, NRSC/ISRO, informed that state wise Hydro Geomorphological (HGM) maps at 1:10,000 scale have been made available to BISAG through the Bhuvan Bhujal portal.

A total of 4,898 HGM maps have been prepared nationwide, providing critical spatial inputs for DSS based planning. NRSC reaffirmed its commitment to continued geospatial and technical support.

- **Convergence with VB-G RAM G for Source Sustainability**

Shri Kiran Padhy, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), highlighted the role of Jan Bhagidari and MGNREGS in strengthening water source sustainability. He informed that CGWB identified water stressed blocks are prioritised under the National Initiative on Water Security.

He further stated that over ₹30,600 crore has been incurred on water related works under MGNREGS, accounting for nearly 41% of total expenditure, with over 10 lakh works completed and 21 lakh works currently ongoing.

**Key Takeaways from the Two Day Orientation**

- Scientific assessment and geospatial tools are essential for

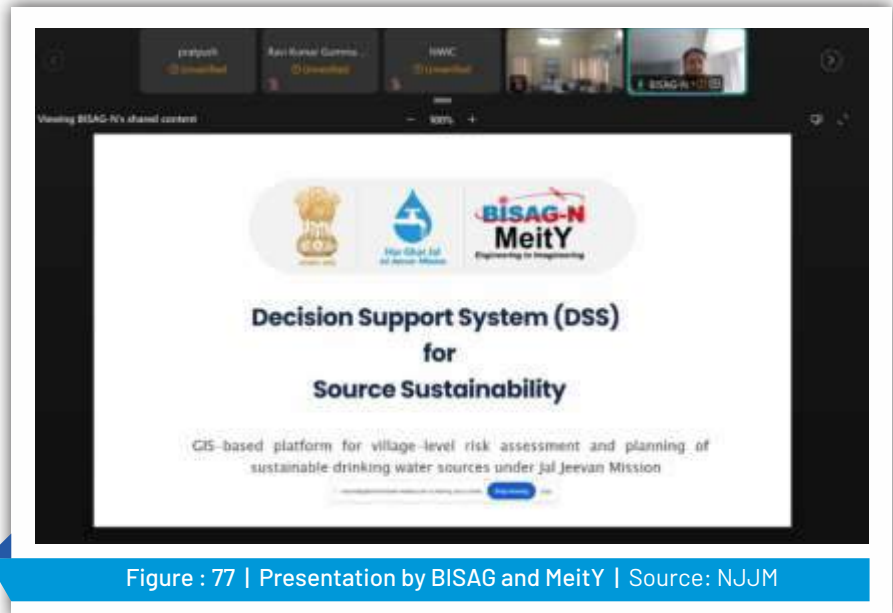


Figure : 77 | Presentation by BISAG and MeitY | Source: NJJM

sustainable drinking water planning.

- DSS provides a robust, evidence based platform for State and District decision making.
- District leadership is critical in translating data insights into field level action.
- Institutional convergence, particularly with programmes like VB-G RAM G, significantly enhances sustainability outcomes.

**Conclusion**

The two day DSS Orientation Programme, attended by officials from Central Ministries, State/UT Governments, District Administra-

tions, and national scientific institutions, reinforced the importance of data driven, integrated, and collaborative planning under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

By equipping both States and Districts with a shared analytical platform, the initiative strengthens India's capacity to secure resilient, sustainable drinking water sources, aligning national efforts with the long term vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

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# Financing the Future: Building Sustainable O&M Frameworks for Rural Drinking Water Services

- Hari Narayanan Murugan, Director, NJJM

## Development of Financial Budgeting for PWS and O&M at GP, District and State level

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

As the nation marked Jal Mahotsav 2026, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) entered a phase of deeper reflection and course correction. Jal Mahotsav, conceptualised as a national convergence campaign under the Mission, goes beyond celebration it provides a structured platform to bring together States, institutions, and communities to deliberate on sustaining the outcomes achieved under the Mission.

In this spirit of convergence, a national virtual deliberation was held on 16 March 2026 as part of the Jal Mahotsav campaign activities, bringing together representatives from Public Health Engineering (PHE) Departments of all States, along with officials from the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR),

NITI Aayog, and experts from IIM Bangalore. The deliberation focused squarely on financial budgeting and sustainable Operations & Maintenance (O&M) frameworks for rural

Piped Water Supply (PWS) systems at Gram Panchayat, district, and State levels.

Having achieved unprecedented

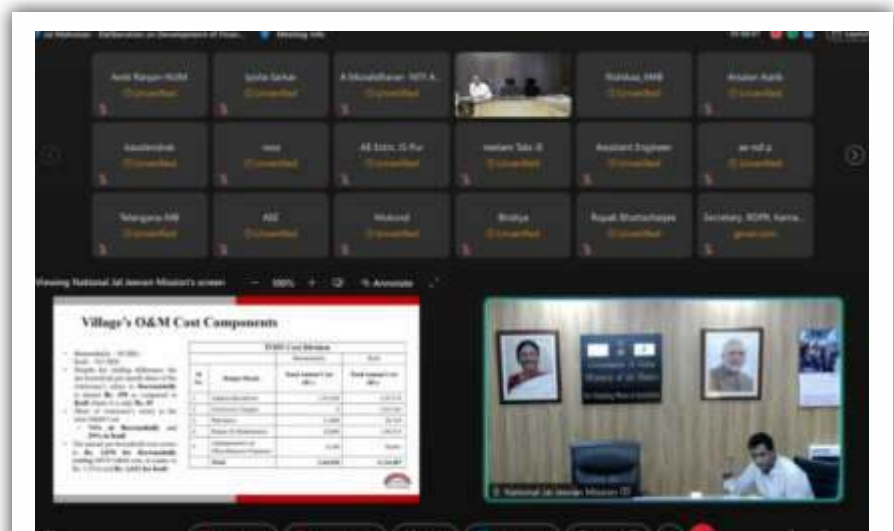


Figure : 78 | Virtual session led by DDWS | Source: NJJM

scale in infrastructure creation providing tap water access to over 15.8 crore rural households, the Mission now faces its most critical test: ensuring that water flows every day, reliably and sustainably. Jal Mahotsav offers the opportunity to pause, assess, and realign institutional and financial arrangements so that the systems created under JJM function as dependable public services.

### From Infrastructure to Assured Services

With the approval of JJM 2.0 and its extension till December 2028, rural water supply is increasingly being redefined as a public utility service, rather than a one time infrastructure intervention. Water systems must function every day, across seasons and geographies, requiring not only technical upkeep but predictable financing and institutional accountability. The infrastructure created under Jal Jeevan Mission can deliver lasting outcomes only when supported by robust financial planning, capable institutions, and empowered communities.

The deliberation provided a platform for States to share experiences, learning, and financial models, while exploring how successful practices can be adapted and scaled nationally.

### State Experiences: Lessons from Early Movers

States that have already made progress in structuring their O&M frameworks i.e Karnataka, Telangana, and Gujarat shared their approaches, challenges, and outcomes, offering valuable insights for peer learning.

#### i. Karnataka: Financial Discipline at the Gram Panchayat Level

Represented by Dr. Sameer Shukla, Secretary, Karnataka presented a

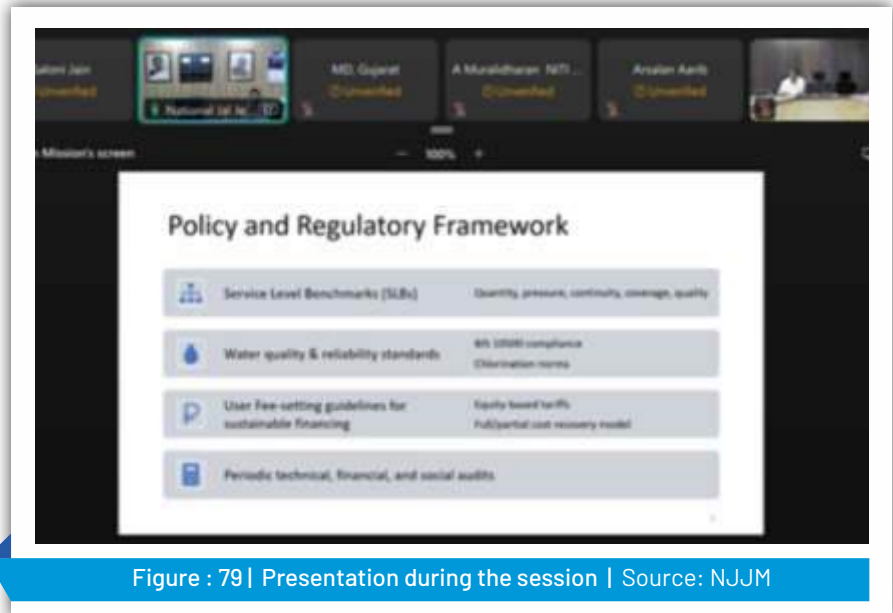


Figure : 79 | Presentation during the session | Source: NJJM

detailed picture of how Gram Panchayat level financial planning can become the backbone of sustainable O&M. The State highlighted that O&M costs particularly for single village schemes—are heavily influenced by electricity expenses, manpower costs, treatment chemicals, and routine repairs.

Karnataka has institutionalised a structured budgeting process whereby annual O&M plans are prepared at the Gram Panchayat level by clearly mapping expenditure against available revenue sources. This has enabled Panchayats to objectively assess whether they are operating with a surplus or deficit and plan corrective measures accordingly. An important institutional reform has been the opening of dedicated water bank accounts in most Gram Panchayats, ensuring transparency and preventing diversion of water related funds.

The State also shared its experience with gradual introduction of user charges. While acknowledging socio cultural resistance to paying for water services, Karnataka noted sustained improvement in tariff collection over the last three years. The adoption of

volumetric billing has yielded encouraging results, including better revenue recovery and noticeable reductions in electricity consumption.

Technology has played a central role in these reforms. Karnataka has expanded water metering across supply chains, introduced SCADA systems in both new and legacy schemes, and deployed mobile based applications for monitoring assets and financial indicators in real time. Looking ahead, the State proposed the establishment of a dedicated O&M unit at the State level to standardise tendering processes and provide technical, financial, and legal support.

#### ii. Telangana: Lifecycle Based Planning and Risk Preparedness

Telangana's presentation underscored the importance of lifecycle based asset management in ensuring uninterrupted water services. The State emphasised that beyond routine operational costs, O&M planning must realistically factor in emergencies arising from natural disasters, third party damages, asset theft or vandalism, and infrastructure



works undertaken by other departments.

By adopting differential budgeting norms based on asset age and performance, Telangana aims to avoid unplanned breakdowns and high emergency repair costs. The State also highlighted the role of preventive maintenance calendars and mentoring support for schemes as essential tools for sustaining service continuity.

In the current context of limited household level tariff recovery, Telangana discussed the role of government support and selective cross subsidisation, especially through commercial water supply, to bridge financing gaps until revenue bases mature.

### iii. Gujarat: Institutional Strength through the WASMO Model

Gujarat showcased its well established three tier institutional framework, supported by WASMO, which has enabled strong technical handholding and capacity building for Gram Panchayats. The State follows a structured tariff framework that allows both flat rate and volumetric billing, supplemented by Finance Commission grants and performance linked incentives.

Gujarat shared encouraging results from its incentive mechanisms, noting marked improvements in water tax collection within a relatively short period. The waiver of electricity charges for Panchayat level schemes has further reduced O&M burden, allowing resources to be directed towards service quality enhancement.

### National Perspectives: Strengthening the Enabling Environment



Figure : 80 | Presentation on Financial Budgeting | Source: NJJM

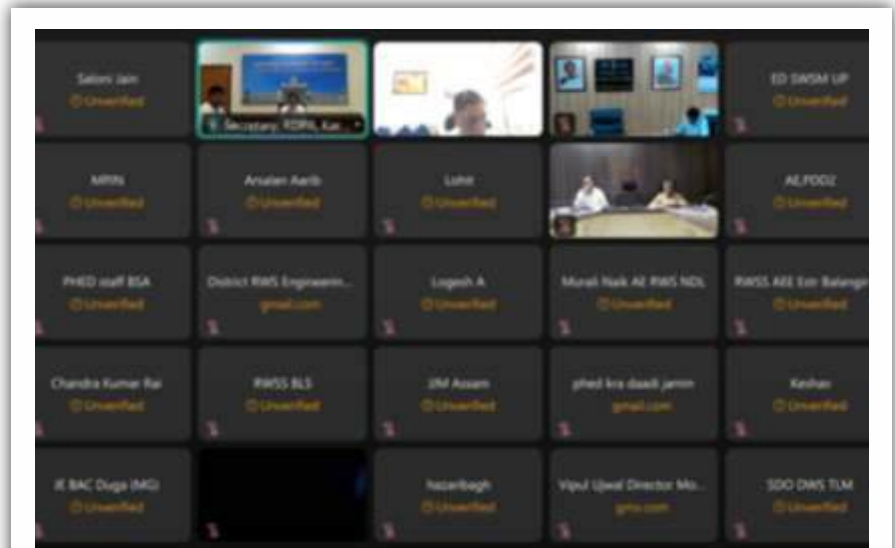


Figure : 81 | Virtual session led by DDWS | Source: NJJM

#### i. IIM Bangalore:

Experts from IIM Bangalore brought an analytical lens to the discussion, emphasising the need for scientific budgeting and tariff design. Drawing from State case studies, they demonstrated how ignoring fixed costs and focusing only on operational expenses can undermine financial sustainability. In smaller Gram Panchayats, for instance, Waterman salaries often account for a disproportionately high share of expenditure, making flat tariffs untenable. Recommendations included shared staffing models, performance linked

incentives, solar based pumping, and benchmark based service standards.

#### ii. Ministry of Panchayati Raj:

The officials from MoPR highlighted efforts to integrate water security planning into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDP), linking water availability, demand, and source sustainability with local planning and budgeting processes. Capacity building of elected representatives was underscored as foundational for meaningful financial decision making.



### iii. NITI Aayog

Officials drew attention to systemic bottlenecks observed during field monitoring, particularly manpower shortages at cutting edge levels and gaps between budget allocations and actual fund flow. Concerns were also raised regarding unpaid dues to utilities such as power agencies and railways, which can abruptly disrupt services. The adoption of solar and hybrid power solutions was strongly encouraged.

The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation concluded by reiterating

the importance of institutional governance, statutory recognition of Village Water & Sanitation Committees, digital monitoring systems, asset geo tagging, and enhanced community ownership especially through greater participation of women in O&M.

#### The Way Forward

The consultation reaffirmed that sustaining the vast infrastructure created under JJM requires a holistic approach combining robust financial planning, institutional strengthening, technological enablement, and

active community participation. States were encouraged to conduct similar deliberations at district and Gram Panchayat levels and to share learnings with the national level to inform continuous policy refinement.

As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, building resilient rural water utilities will remain central to inclusive development and human well being.

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# Water Budgeting for Panchayat Development Planning

- Y. K. Singh, Director, NJJM



Y. K. Singh

*“Integrating water budgeting into Gram Panchayat Development Plans is essential to ensuring that development priorities remain aligned with local water availability and long term sustainability.”*

India’s journey towards universal access to safe and adequate drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has made remarkable progress. As coverage expands across rural households, the national discourse is now rightly evolving beyond infrastructure creation towards the sustainability of water sources and service delivery systems. Ensuring that every tap continues to supply water reliably requires a renewed focus on local planning, resource efficiency and long term water security.

In this evolving context, water budgeting has emerged as a vital planning instrument to strengthen

decentralised governance and enable sustainable water management at the Gram Panchayat level. It is not merely a technical exercise, but a participatory process that places communities at the centre of decisions relating to water availability, demand and prioritisation. Recognising its strategic importance, a national deliberation on **“Water Budgeting for Panchayat Development Planning”** was organised during Jal Mahotsav 2026, in convergence with NITI Aayog.

## A National Platform for Collective Deliberation

The deliberation session, held on 18 March 2026 in a virtual–hybrid format, served as a national platform for dialogue on integrating water budgeting within Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDPs). It

brought together more than 600 stakeholders representing multiple levels of governance and development partnerships.

The event witnessed participation from more than 600 stakeholders, including:

- ◆ NITI Aayog
- ◆ Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
- ◆ Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- ◆ Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- ◆ Department of Water Resources (Atal Bhujal Yojana – ABY)
- ◆ UNICEF
- ◆ State Governments including



Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana and Maharashtra

- ◆ District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs), District Technical Units (DTUs), and Gram Panchayat representatives

The breadth of participation reflected a shared understanding that water security cannot be achieved through isolated interventions, but requires institutional convergence, informed planning and empowered local governance.

### The Growing Imperative for Water Budgeting

India is witnessing increasing stress on its water resources due to a combination of declining per capita availability, climate variability, competing sectoral demands and changing consumption patterns. Rural drinking water supply systems, which are largely dependent on local groundwater and surface water sources, are particularly vulnerable to seasonal and long term variability.

Water budgeting responds to this challenge by providing Panchayats with a structured framework to:

- ◆ Assess water availability at the village level
- ◆ Estimate sector wise water demand
- ◆ Identify potential deficits and critical periods
- ◆ Prioritise interventions related to conservation, recharge and demand management

Water budgeting is central to ensuring that source sustainability is embedded within planning processes, thereby safeguarding functional household tap connections over time. Hence in the extension phase of the Mission, i.e.

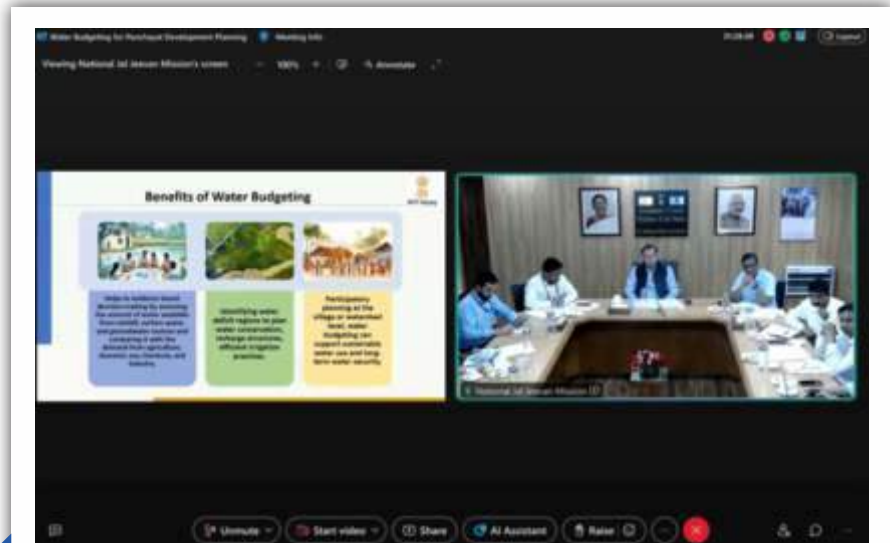


Figure : 82 | National presentation on Water Budgeting | Source: NJJM



Figure : 83 | Sharing by line departments during Water Budgeting session | Source: NJJM

JJM 2.0 emphasis is being focused on water budgeting as one of the important aspects.

#### Deepening Panchayat Led Planning and Accountability

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment envisages Gram Panchayats as custodians of local natural resources. Water budgeting meaningfully operationalises this mandate by enabling Panchayats to undertake data driven, participatory planning rooted in local realities.

**When systematically incorporated into GDPDs, water budgeting facilitates:**

- ◆ Alignment of development activities with local water availability
- ◆ Greater emphasis on demand side management and efficiency
- ◆ Improved prioritisation of investments related to drinking water sustainability
- ◆ Enhanced transparency and





accountability through community participation

In effect, it transforms GDPs into water sensitive development plans, ensuring that developmental aspirations remain grounded in ecological sustainability.

## Policy Perspectives and National Level Insights

The deliberations were enriched by policy perspectives from national ministries and partner institutions, which highlighted water budgeting as a practical and people centred approach to sustainable water management.

NITI Aayog drew attention to declining per capita water availability and the long term risk of communities facing “water bankruptcy” in the absence of proactive planning. Water budgeting was underlined as a critical tool for aligning water demand with availability, cropping choices and climate variability. Field experiences showed that village level water budgeting, when undertaken in a timely manner and supported by strong community ownership, has significantly reduced dependence on tanker based water supply. Digital platforms such as Varuni were highlighted as effective enablers.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj emphasised the need to institutionalise water sufficiency within GDPs through capacity building, data convergence and strengthened planning processes. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change highlighted sustainable practices promoted under Mission LiFE, including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and reuse of treated greywater.

The Atal Bhujal Yojana shared lessons from community led groundwater management supported by real time



Figure : 84 | Water Budgeting session in progress | Source: NJJM

data and Water Security Plans, while UNICEF underscored the importance of participatory approaches in sustaining 55 litres per capita per day (LPCD) service delivery standards under JJM.

### Learning from State Experiences

Building on these institutional perspectives, states shared practical experiences that demonstrate the impact of water budgeting on the ground. State presentations demonstrated how water budgeting translates into tangible outcomes when adapted to local contexts:

- ◆ Maharashtra showcased its long standing experience with water budgeting, leading to a marked reduction in tanker dependency and expansion of micro irrigation practices.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh highlighted innovative approaches such as QR based transparency mechanisms and iterative planning processes, improving awareness and efficiency.
- ◆ Haryana presented demand side management initiatives anchored in Water Security Committees and community mobilisation.

- ◆ Karnataka emphasised the centrality of capacity building and grassroots level data collection.

These diverse state experiences point to a common underlying factor driving successful outcomes, active community engagement in planning and decision making. While institutional frameworks, technical tools and departmental convergence provide an enabling environment, it is sustained participation at the village level that translates water budgeting from a planning exercise into a lived practice. This reinforces the understanding that long term water security cannot be achieved without placing communities at the centre of resource stewardship.

### Community Participation at the core of water budgeting

Building on these lessons, water budgeting emerges fundamentally as a participatory process, where community involvement is central to planning, implementation and long term sustainability. Water budgeting is inherently a participatory process. Community involvement ensures:

- ◆ Accurate data collection

- ◆ Ownership of interventions
- ◆ Improved sustainability of outcomes

Gram Sabhas, participatory tools and transparent decision making mechanisms play a pivotal role in fostering inclusiveness, behavioural change and collective responsibility for water resources.

#### Technology as a Force Multiplier

Digital tools, including Decision Support Systems (DSS) and planning applications, are increasingly enabling Panchayats to access data on rainfall patterns, groundwater levels and water usage. These tools strengthen evidence based planning, monitoring and accountability. At the same time, effective water budgeting requires careful integration of local knowledge with scientific inputs, ensuring that decisions remain grounded and practical.

#### The Way Forward

To scale and institutionalise water budgeting across rural India, the following priorities merit focused attention:

- ◆ Integrating water budgeting formally into GPDP processes
- ◆ Strengthening capacities at Panchayat, block and district levels
- ◆ Leveraging digital tools for real time data and analysis
- ◆ Ensuring convergence across departments and aligned schemes
- ◆ Promoting peer learning and dissemination of best practices
- ◆ Undertaking planning sufficiently in advance of the monsoon

#### Conclusion

Water budgeting represents a transformational approach that aligns local governance, community participation and scientific planning into a coherent framework.

For the Jal Jeevan Mission, it is a critical enabler of sustainable and resilient drinking water systems, ensuring that infrastructure investments are underpinned by reliable and responsibly managed water sources.

The deliberations at Jal Mahotsav 2026 reaffirmed that achieving long term water security in rural India requires collective action, institutional convergence and empowered Panchayats.

Water security begins at the grass-roots, and water budgeting provides the roadmap to achieve it.





# Water Quality at the Core of Jal Jeevan Mission

## (Key Takeaways from the Jal Mahotsav 2026 – Water Quality Series)

– Sumit Priyadarshi, Deputy Advisor, NJJM



**Sumit Priyadarshi**

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has made remarkable strides in expanding household tap water connectivity across rural India, representing a significant infrastructure milestone. However, the larger challenge now lies in ensuring that these services remain safe, reliable, and sustainable over the long term. Recognising this critical shift, Jal Mahotsav 2026 placed strong emphasis on moving beyond infrastructure creation toward service delivery, with water quality assurance and community led stewardship at the centre of this transition. The introduction of the “Sujalam Shakti” model and the dedicated Water Quality Series reflects this evolving approach towards sustainable, safe, and community managed rural water systems.

**“Sujalam Shakti” – Women Led Community Water Stewardship Model under Jal Jeevan Mission**

On 9th March, Day 2 of Jal Mahotsav 2026 (8th – 22nd March 2026) began with a virtual orientation on “Sujalam Shakti” Women Led Community Water Stewardship Model. The session focused on community based organisations engaged by Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), such as village level Self Help Groups (SHGs) and PACs, to support safe, reliable, and sustainable rural water services. These organisations preferably women led will be aligned with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and recognised as field level functionaries to ensure the long term functionality of rural water supply schemes. The orientation witnessed participation from over 100 officials from Rural Water Supply and Public Health Engineering Departments across States and UTs.

The deliberations highlighted a strategic shift within JJM from a primary focus on infrastructure creation to ensuring long term service sustainability. While significant progress has been achieved in extending household tap connections, States acknowledged persistent challenges related to maintaining system functionality, safeguarding water quality, protecting sources, and strengthening community ownership.

In this context, Sujalam Shakti emerged as a women led community stewardship model that effectively bridges engineered infrastructure

with everyday village practices. By positioning trained women as frontline custodians of rural water systems, the model envisages these cadres as the first line of assurance for water quality and safety. Their roles include routine field level surveillance using Field Test Kits, support in sanitary inspections, operation and maintenance, source sustainability efforts, and promoting community awareness on user charges. These activities are further reinforced through systematic digital reporting on platforms such as WQMIS and the Sujalam Bharat App. The discussions underscored the importance of structured capacity building to strengthen the technical, digital, and social competencies of these cadres, thereby establishing Sujalam Shakti as a key pillar of JJM’s long term sustainability framework.

### **Water Quality Takes Centre Stage**

As Jal Mahotsav progressed into its second and intellectually intensive phase, the dialogue shifted decisively from infrastructure expansion to the core determinant of public health—water quality. Over three pivotal days, the Mahotsav brought together national institutions, scientific experts, and thousands of states and district level functionaries on a single platform to address the invisible yet indispensable backbone of the Jal Jeevan Mission: standardisation, laboratory credibility, and last mile water quality surveillance.



Through a carefully sequenced three day Water Quality Series, the Mahotsav reinforced a fundamental truth: the success of Har Ghar Jal does not end with tap connectivity; it truly begins with ensuring that every drop delivered is safe, reliable, and continuously monitored.

### Defining “Safe Water”: BIS Standards as the First Line of Assurance

Day 12 (19th March 2026) of Jal Mahotsav was dedicated to reinforcing the scientific and statutory foundations of drinking water safety. Chaired by Ms. Suneeti Toteja, Scientist ‘F’ and Head, Food & Agriculture Department, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the session focused on translating national standards into actionable guidance at State and district levels.

The discussion centred around IS 10500:2012, India’s prescribed standard for drinking water quality. Experts Ms. Disha Zanwar and Mr. Ashish Kumar Kanar conducted a structured walkthrough of the standard, clearly explaining the distinction between acceptable limits and permissible limits across physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters.

For over 700 participating officials, the session demystified complex numerical thresholds and contextualised them within rural water supply realities covering parameters such as Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), fluoride, nitrate, iron, arsenic, and bacteriological safety. Importantly, the dialogue emphasised that water quality assurance extends well beyond the source.

Equal focus was placed on the quality of infrastructure components viz. pipes, storage tanks, valves, and



Figure : 85 | Water quality testing during Jal Mahotsav | Source: NJJM



fittings which must conform to BIS specifications and carry the ISI mark. The use of non standard materials, it was noted, poses significant risks of secondary contamination during storage and distribution.

By advocating the integration of BIS clauses into State procurement and tendering processes, the session highlighted how preventive regulation can safeguard public health while enhancing the longevity and sustainability of rural water





supply schemes.

### Verifying the Standards: NABL Accreditation and Laboratory Credibility

**Day 13 (20th March 2026)** shifted attention to laboratory systems and institutional accountability, underscoring that while BIS standards define what constitutes safe water, laboratory accreditation determines how reliably that safety is verified.

Led by **Mr. Vikas Kumar Jaiswal** and **Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma** from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Quality Council of India, the session provided a comprehensive orientation on ISO/IEC 17025 based accreditation, with specific reference to drinking water laboratories under JJM.

Participants were introduced to revised NABL guidelines, including integrated assessments, streamlined evaluation processes, and extended accreditation cycles measures designed to strengthen compliance while improving operational feasibility for State, district, and block level laboratories.

A clear message resonated throughout the session: under JJM, NABL accreditation is not optional, it is essential for data credibility and policy confidence.

#### Key thematic takeaways included:

- Measurement Traceability:** Ensuring chemical and microbiological test results are traceable to national and international reference standards.
- Infrastructure and Human Competence:** Aligning laboratory space, calibrated equipment, biosafety practices, and technical

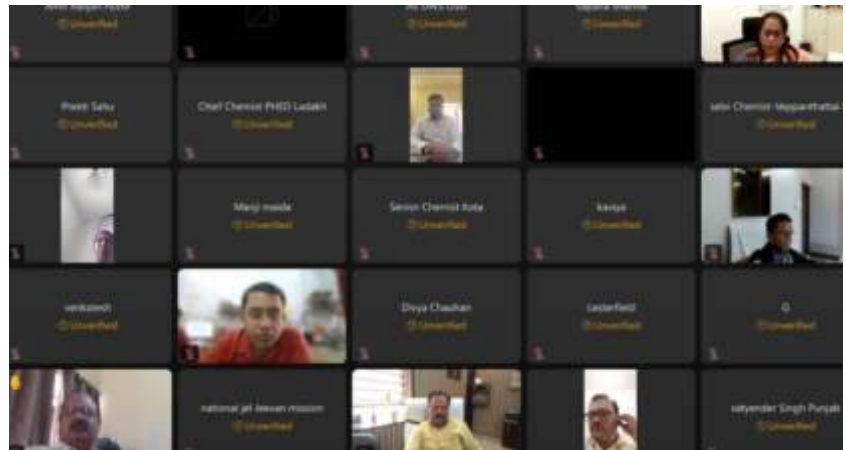


Figure : 86 | Participants of digital session | Source: NJJM



Figure : 87 | Water quality testing during Jal Mahotsav | Source: NJJM

staffing with NABL norms, particularly at block level.

- Quality Assurance Systems:** Institutionalising the use of Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) and regular participation in Proficiency Testing (PT) to maintain analytical accuracy.

The session reinforced that credible laboratories form the backbone of evidence based governance, enabling States to target interventions effectively, justify investments, and sustain community trust in rural water supplies.

### From Laboratories to Villages: Surveillance Where It Matters Most

The Water Quality Series concluded on **Day 14 (21st March 2026)** by bringing the conversation back to the ground—where water is ultimately consumed and risks most often emerge. The session on Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQMS) focused on translating laboratory precision into community level protection.

Experts **Dr. Atul Maldhure (CSIR NEERI)** and **Mr. Amit Singh**, Chief

Engineer, Haryana PHED, spoke on persistent and emerging contamination challenges in rural India. These include geogenic contaminants such as fluoride, arsenic, and iron, alongside anthropogenic microbial contamination arising from inadequate sanitation, leaking pipelines, and unsafe storage practices.

The session emphasized the “**Lab–Field–Community**” **continuum**, clarifying that while laboratories provide confirmation, the first line of defence lies in routine field surveillance.

**Key operational insights included:**

- ◆ **Routine Surveillance Protocols:** Monthly testing of turbidity and Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) using Field Test Kits to ensure effective disinfection.
- ◆ **Risk Based Approach:** Integrating chemical analysis with sanitary inspections, leak detection, source vulnerability mapping, and hygiene audits of village storage infrastructure.
- ◆ **Data Driven Action:** Progressing towards Water Safety Planning, wherein multi year water quality data across hydrological cycles is analysed to identify persistent hotspots rather than reacting to isolated exceedances.

The discussions reinforced that empowered communities, trained



Figure :88 | Not only water but a relief, a happiness flowing from tap | Source: NJJM

frontline workers, and informed engineers together constitute the most effective surveillance system.

**A Unified Quality Framework for Har Ghar Jal**

Taken together, these three days of focused deliberation at Jal Mahotsav 2026 articulated a cohesive and future ready quality framework for the Jal Jeevan Mission:

- ◆ **BIS** defines what safe water means
- ◆ **NABL** ensures how safety is credibly measured
- ◆ **WQMS** guarantees how safety is sustained at the last mile

The convergence of national standards, scientific verification, and vigilant field monitoring reaffirmed that while providing household tap connections is an engineering achievement, sustaining safe drinking water is a continuous scientific and institutional endeavour.

As the Jal Jeevan Mission advances toward long term service delivery, the Water Quality Series at Jal Mahotsav has decisively strengthened the Mission’s commitment: every rural household deserves not just water but water that is safe, trusted, and protected for generations to come.

*- copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU, NJJM*



# Funds Released to Five States under JJM 2.0: Strengthening a Service- Driven Rural Water Ecosystem

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

Under the restructured Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM 2.0), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has released ₹1,561.53 crore to five States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh for the financial year 2025–26 on 30th March 2026. This release marks an important milestone in operationalising the Mission's transition from an infrastructure-driven programme to a service delivery-oriented framework.

The Union Cabinet's approval of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 on 10 March 2026 signaled a paradigm shift in India's rural water supply approach. With an enhanced total outlay of ₹8.69 lakh crore and increased central assistance of ₹3.59 lakh crore up from ₹2.08 lakh crore approved earlier the Mission now places greater emphasis on sustainability, accountability and long-term service assurance. This enhanced financial commitment reflects the Government's resolve to institutionalise reliable, safe and equitable drinking water services across rural India.

A key feature of JJM 2.0 is its reform-linked framework, under which States and Union Territories are required to formalise their commitments through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Jal Jeevan Mission. These MoUs outline responsibilities related to service delivery benchmarks, sustainability measures and commu-

nity-led management of water supply systems. So far, 12 States have signed these reform-linked agreements, signalling strong cooperative federalism in action.

The recent fund release to the five States follows the fulfilment of mandatory compliance conditions, reflecting a shift towards performance-based financing. Uttar Pradesh has been allocated ₹792.93 crore, Chhattisgarh ₹536.53 crore, Madhya Pradesh ₹154.02 crore, Odisha ₹65.31 crore and Maharashtra ₹12.74 crore. This structured approach ensures that financial assistance is closely tied to reform implementation and readiness on the ground.

To enhance transparency and efficiency, a robust validation framework has been institutionalised. Prior to the release of funds, States are required to meet key conditions, including signing of MoUs, validation of schemes through the Sujalam Bharat GIS-linked Asset Registry, certification of technical compliance with CPHEEO norms, and proper financial reconciliation of expenditures. This marks the first time that such a comprehensive, compliance-linked mechanism has been introduced, ensuring that investments translate into tangible outcomes.

The progress achieved under Jal Jeevan Mission since its launch in August 2019 provides a strong foundation for this next phase. From

a baseline of 3.23 crore rural households (16.7%) with tap water connections, the Mission has enabled over 12.59 crore additional households to gain access. Today, 15.83 crore rural households around 81.8% of the total have tap water supply in their homes.

Building on these achievements, JJM 2.0 places renewed emphasis on service delivery, operation and maintenance, and community ownership. A Gram Panchayat will now be declared "Har Ghar Jal" only after ensuring that robust in-village systems for operation and maintenance are in place. This marks a decisive shift from infrastructure creation to sustained service assurance.

Looking ahead, Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 aims to achieve universal coverage by December 2028, ensuring that all 19.36 crore rural households have access to adequate and safe drinking water. This will be achieved through adherence to timelines, sustainability of infrastructure and a continued focus on citizen-centric service delivery.

The release of funds to the five States is not merely a financial transaction, it is a reflection of a broader transformation underway in rural water governance. Anchored in reform, powered by technology and sustained through community participation, Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 is paving the way for a water-secure rural India, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

# Strengthening Future Leadership for Water Security: Training on Jal Jeevan Mission at LBSNAA

- Rakesh Ranjan, Under Secretary, NJJM & Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

**R**ecognising the critical role of leadership in ensuring sustainable rural drinking water services, a half day training programme on Rural Drinking Water Supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was organised at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) on 23 March 2026. The programme was attended by 182 IAS Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch, along with three Officer Trainees from the Royal Bhutan Civil Services. They evolved into a collective reflection on the future of rural water governance in India.

The training focused on the evolving transition of Jal Jeevan Mission from infrastructure creation to sustainable and reliable service delivery, equipping future administrators with practical insights into water

governance and rural service management.

## Session-1: Rural Drinking Water Supply under JJM - From Infrastructure to Service Delivery

### i. Presentation by Sh. Kamal Kishore Soan, AS & MD, NJJM

The programme opened with a compelling address by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, who framed the evolution of Jal Jeevan Mission in clear and practical terms.

He highlighted that while JJM has achieved remarkable scale covering over 80% of rural households and delivering more than 12 crore tap water connections the Mission now faces a fundamentally different challenge.

The question is no longer whether infrastructure exists, but whether it delivers water regularly, safely, and sustainably.

He outlined three critical paradigm shifts that define JJM 2.0:

- ◆ **From access to assured service delivery** at the household level
- ◆ **From infrastructure to functionality**, ensuring 55 LPCD consistently
- ◆ **From government-driven delivery to Jan Bhagidari**, placing community ownership at the centre

At the same time, he cautioned that gains could be reversed if key risks particularly groundwater stress and weak operations and maintenance



Figure :89 | AS&MD, NJJM delivering insights in session 1 | Source: NJJM





(O&M) are not addressed. He called upon future administrators to treat O&M not as a post-project activity, but as a **core governance function**, supported by strong district leadership and convergence of resources.

### ii. Presentation by Sh. Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM

Shri Pradeep Singh, Director, NJJM, expanded the discussion by introducing the idea of rural water supply systems as service utilities.

He emphasised that water supply should not be seen as a scheme that ends with commissioning, but as a continuous service that must be managed daily.

Drawing on field experience, he highlighted the broader impact of reliable tap water:

- ◆ Improved public health outcomes
- ◆ Better nutrition and hygiene
- ◆ Increased school attendance, especially for girls
- ◆ Reduced drudgery for women

At the same time, he reinforced that sustainability rests on strong community-based mechanisms. He pointed to the role of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), along with initiatives such as Jal Arpan Diwas and Jal Utsav, in building ownership and accountability.

Looking ahead, he identified key priorities for JJM 2.0:

- ◆ Source sustainability
- ◆ Skilled local capacity
- ◆ Financial viability
- ◆ Strong district-level coordination

His message was clear: **“Infrastructure can be engineered—but water**



Figure : 90 | Director, NJJM delivering presentation | Source: NJJM

**security must be governed.”**

### iii. Presentation by Sh. Y.K. Singh, Director, NJJM

Taking the discussion further, Shri Yogendra Kumar Singh, Director, NJJM, positioned Jan Bhagidari as a continuous governance process rather than a one-time activity.

He demonstrated how community engagement evolves from initial awareness to long-term ownership through structured interventions such as:

- ◆ Jal Arpan and Jal Utsav
- ◆ Gram Sabha-led O&M planning
- ◆ Field Test Kit (FTK) based water quality monitoring by women SHGs

Importantly, he drew attention to the scale of the sustainability challenge, noting the large number of drinking water sources and India’s heavy reliance on groundwater.

To address this, he presented practical, replicable solutions:

- ◆ “One Source–One Recharge Structure” approach
- ◆ DSS-based scientific recharge planning
- ◆ Convergence with schemes such as MGNREGS, PMKSY, CAMPA, CSR, and DMF

He urged district leaders to institutionalise these practices as part of routine administration, rather than reactive measures.



Figure : 91 | Director, NJJM delivering presentation | Source: NJJM

#### iv. Presentation by Dr. Ankita Chakravarty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM

The role of digital platforms in strengthening governance was highlighted by Dr. Ankita Chakravarty, Deputy Secretary, NJJM.

Her presentation focused on JJM IMIS 2.0 dashboards, positioning them not as reporting tools, but as early warning systems.

##### She emphasised that:

- Monitoring must focus on functionality, regularity, and quality, not just coverage
- Data should trigger timely action and corrective measures
- Districts must ensure field verification, preventive maintenance, and grievance redressal

She underscored the critical role of District Collectors as the link between data insights and field realities, ensuring that information translates into improved service delivery.



Figure : 92 | Deputy Secretary, NJJM delivering presentation | Source: NJJM





## Session-2: International Perspective for Piped Drinking Water Supply

The programme also benefited from international perspectives.

### i. Presentation by Mr. Paulos Workneh, Chief WASH, UNICEF

Mr. Paulos Workneh, Chief WASH, UNICEF, described JJM as one of the most transformative water programmes globally, while cautioning that:

“Connections alone do not deliver outcomes quality, reliability, and sustainability do.”

He highlighted global lessons:

- ◆ Professional utility management
- ◆ Cost recovery mechanisms
- ◆ Source protection
- ◆ Building citizen trust

### ii. Presentation by Ms. Isabelle Navarro Vinten & Mr. Philip Grinder Pedersen, Danish EPA

Representatives from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency shared Denmark’s experience of achieving near 100% groundwater-based drinking water supply through strong source protection.

**They demonstrated:**

- ◆ Consumer-owned micro-utility models
- ◆ Transparent tariffs and metering
- ◆ Strong regulatory frameworks

These insights reinforced the importance of financial discipline and institutional clarity in sustaining water services.



Figure : 93 | Presentation by Chief WaSH, UNICEF | Source: NJJM

## Session-3: Field Realities and District Levers for Sustainability

One of the most impactful segments of the programme was the session on field realities, where practitioners shared real-world experiences.

### i. Presentation by Sh. Rohit Meena, MD, JJM Uttarakhand

Shri Rohit Meena, Managing Director, JJM Uttarakhand, emphasised that while infrastructure creation has been successful, the real challenge lies in ensuring reliable service delivery. He introduced the 4S Framework – Scale, Skill, Source, Sustainability

**He highlighted issues such as:**

- ◆ Limited local technical capacity

- ◆ Inadequate source assessment
- ◆ High O&M costs

The key message delivered by him is; the Mission must shift from “project mode” to “utility mode”.



Figure :94 | Panelists of Session 3 | Source: NJJM

## ii. Presentation by Shri Rahul Sindhu, DC, Tarn Taran, Punjab

Shri Rahul Sindhu, District Collector, Tarn Taran, provided practical insights into implementation challenges.

### He noted that:

- Commissioning marks the beginning of responsibility, not the end
- Strong VWSCs improve accountability and service delivery
- The first 60 days after scheme handover are critical

### He emphasised:

- Regular user charge collection
- Timely grievance redressal
- Field verification beyond MIS reporting

## iii. Presentation by Shri Jitendra Yadav, DC, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh

Shri Jitendra Yadav, DC Rajnandgaon, shared the success of Mission Jal Raksha, a community-driven groundwater recharge initiative.

Through convergence of multiple

funds, the district:

- Created over 500 recharge structures
- Improved groundwater levels
- Reduced dependence on tankers

His experience underscored the importance of source sustainability combined with community ownership.

## iv. Voices from the Ground: Gram Panchayat Leaders

Perhaps the most compelling insights came from Gram Panchayat representatives. Two GP Representatives from Karnataka Ms. Padmashri Patil & Ms. S. Hemavathi shared their ground experience.

They shared how villages moved from water scarcity and tanker dependence, uneven supply and disputes to reliable household water supply, active community monitoring and strong local ownership. VWSCs are now collecting user charges, testing water quality, maintaining infrastructure with support of community.

Their message was simple but powerful “Har Ghar Jal is not a one-time achievement, it is a daily responsibility.”

## Session-4: Panel discussion on Field Realities and District Levers for Sustainability

### i. Presentation by Shri K.V.S. Choudhary, MD, MP Jal Nigam

Shri K.V.S. Choudhary, Managing Director, MP Jal Nigam, highlighted that the key challenges in rural water supply emerge during operations and governance rather than construction, making sustained post-commissioning oversight critical. While JJM has achieved significant progress in expanding tap connections, ensuring reliability and long-term sustainability remains the real test.

He noted that Single Village Schemes are often more effective due to their local source dependence and ease of management. Drawing from field experience, he pointed to gaps such as weak PRI ownership, inadequate water quality monitoring, rising O&M costs, low user charge recovery, and limited coordination.

Emphasising the district as the fulcrum of success, he stressed the need to strengthen Panchayats, improve financial and operational systems, and adopt a more coordinated approach. He concluded that





Figure : 95 | Presentation by panelists of session 4 | Source: NJJM

JJM's success will depend more on leadership, institutional ownership, financial discipline, and behavioural change than on engineering alone.

### ii. Presentation by Shri Keerthi Vasan V., DC, Ganjam, Odisha

Shri Keerthi Vasan V., District Collector, Ganjam, Odisha, shared how scheme sustainability in the district has been driven through a balanced approach combining structured governance, technology-enabled O&M, strong community ownership, and focused source protection. Regular Collector-led reviews ensured timely issue resolution and preventive maintenance, while empowered VWSCs, trained Nal Jal Mitras, and Gram Sabha-based monitoring strengthened local accountability. Financial sustainability was supported through consistent collection of modest user charges, enabling routine operations and upkeep.

He also highlighted that sustainability is an ongoing process, with challenges such as behavioural change, illegal connections, shortage of skilled personnel, and limited O&M resources continuing to persist. Emphasising long-term responsibility, he noted that commissioning is not the end of a project but the

beginning of service delivery, requiring sustained oversight, financial discipline, and continuous community engagement to ensure reliable water supply.

### iii. Voices from the Ground: Gram Panchayat Leaders

Shri Nishantbhai Ramanbhai Patel and Shri Vaghela Kirtinkumar Ramanbhai (GP representatives from Gujarat) shared how villages like Takhatgad and Surasamal in Gujarat have moved beyond basic coverage to deliver reliable 24x7 metered water supply, driven by strong community ownership and Panchayat leadership.

Supported by active VWSCs, Gram Sabha engagement, and institutional backing from WASMO, these systems demonstrate how local governance can function effectively as a water utility. Affordable user charges with near 100% collection largely through digital payments—have strengthened financial sustainability while promoting responsible water use.

They highlighted that before JJM, these villages faced water scarcity, tanker dependence, and uneven supply, with a disproportionate burden on households. Today, practices such as Jan Bhagidari in

O&M, same-day grievance redressal, regular water quality testing by trained community members, and strong focus on source protection have transformed service delivery.

Their experience reinforced that sustainability goes beyond infrastructure requiring community ownership, financial discipline, and continuous engagement. Ultimately, they emphasised that Har Ghar Jal is not a one-time achievement, but a daily service commitment sustained by communities that see these systems as their own.

### Key Takeaways from the Programme

The discussions converged around a few critical insights:

- ◆ Sustainability depends more on governance and O&M than infrastructure
- ◆ District leadership is central to service delivery outcomes
- ◆ Source sustainability is essential to prevent reversibility
- ◆ Community ownership ensures long-term functionality
- ◆ The Mission must move from asset creation to service assurance



### Conclusion: Building the Next Phase of the Mission

The training programme at LBSNAA was not just about understanding Jal Jeevan Mission—it was about preparing future administrators to lead its next phase.

**It reinforced a crucial shift in**

### perspective:

- ◆ From projects to systems
- ◆ From outputs to outcomes
- ◆ From delivery to sustainability

As India moves towards universal water security, the role of leadership

becomes even more critical. The pipes have been laid. The connections have reached homes. Now, the task is to ensure that water flows every day, for every household, without fail. And it is this responsibility that the next generation of administrators will carry forward.



## Visit of DEPA, Denmark Delegation Visit and Strategic Dialogue on Rural Water Services

- Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM

A delegation from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) visited Anandpur village in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh on 24 March 2026 to gain first hand insights into rural drinking water service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The visit was organised under the Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark, reflecting the shared commitment of both countries towards sustainable water management.

During the field visit, the DEPA delegation interacted with beneficiaries, Gram Panchayat representatives and other local stakeholders to understand how rural water supply systems are planned, operated and maintained at the village level. Shri Arun Kumar, Under Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), accompanied and guided the delegation, providing an overview of JJM's service delivery approach, community participation mechanisms and operational practices.

The delegation observed how Functional Household Tap Connections have improved day to day living, particularly for women and children, and discussed aspects related to water quality monitoring, operation and maintenance, and local institutional arrangements. The interaction provided an opportunity for mutual learning, with a focus on long term sustainability of rural drinking water services.



Figure : 96 | Denmark delegation at village Ahmadpur, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM

Building on the field visit, a meeting between officials of the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) was held on 25 March 2026 in New Delhi. The meeting was co chaired by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, and Ms. Isabelle Vinten Navarro, Deputy Director General, Denmark, and focused on discussions around Phase II of bilateral cooperation in the water sector.

The discussions were encouraging and centred on realigning the India-Denmark partnership from a project based engagement to a strategic, systems level collaboration. Both sides explored opportunities for cooperation with an emphasis on long term service delivery outcomes,

institutional strengthening and sustainability of rural water supply systems.

It was agreed that the continued collaboration would align closely with the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, focusing on reliable service delivery, community ownership, and measurable impact. Both India and Denmark reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening this cooperation framework to ensure that it delivers scalable, sustainable and outcome oriented solutions in the rural water sector.



The interaction with DEPA reinforced the growing global interest in India's experience under Jal Jeevan Mission and highlighted the importance of international partnerships in advancing sustainable water governance. As JJM enters its next phase, such collaborations are expected to contribute meaningfully to shared learning, innovation and the pursuit of safe and secure drinking water for all, in line with the broader vision of JJM 2.0.



Figure : 97 | Denmark delegation at village Ahmadpur, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh | Source: NJJM



Figure : 98 | Meeting of DEPA & NJJM | Source: NJJM



## From Access to Accountability: India-Sri Lanka Delegate Meeting

- Aniketa Sattavan, NJJM

**W**ater is essential for life, livelihoods, and sustainable development. However, ensuring safe, adequate, and regular drinking water supply continues to be a major challenge for many countries, particularly in rural and remote areas where infrastructure, service delivery mechanisms, and monitoring systems are still evolving. Addressing these challenges requires not only investment in infrastructure, but also strong governance, community participation, and long term sustainability frameworks.

In this context, a delegation of Members of Parliament from Sri Lanka, during their visit to India on 25 March, interacted with officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) to gain insights into India's flagship programmes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission. The interaction provided an opportunity to share India's experience in strengthening rural drinking water service delivery and sanitation outcomes through policy reforms, institutional mechanisms, and people's participation.

India's rural water system has evolved significantly over time. Earlier, most villages depended on sources like hand pumps, wells, and ponds, and access to safe drinking water was limited. This also placed a heavy burden on women and girls, who often had to travel long distances to



Figure : 99 | Secretary, DDWS, chairing the meeting with the Sri Lankan delegation at the Ministry of Jal Shakti | Source: NJJM

fetch water.

Recognising these challenges, a major shift came in 2019 with the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aimed to provide drinking water supply to every rural household. Since then, coverage has expanded rapidly from about 17 percent in 2019 to around 82 percent today, reaching over 15.8 crore rural households. While this expansion has improved access, the focus has now moved beyond providing connections to ensuring that water supply systems function regularly and reliably over time.

**Shri Hari Narayanan Murugan, Director, DDWS**, delivered a presentation and said that with the Cabinet approval of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 till December 2028, the programme has been restructured to move from an infrastructure-focused approach to a

service delivery model, supported by stronger drinking water governance and institutional systems for sustainable rural piped water supply. Earlier gaps in monitoring, grievance redressal, and tracking of water systems affected service delivery, and addressing these gaps has become a key priority.

To improve transparency and efficiency, several systems have been introduced. The Sujalam Bharat ID framework enables end-to-end tracking of water supply systems by assigning unique IDs to each village and scheme. At the Gram Panchayat level, Jal Seva Aankalan captures citizen feedback on water services, with this information reflected through the Meri Panchayat app, strengthening responsiveness and accountability. They also explained the Jal Arpan process which ensures that completed infrastructure is



tested and formally handed over to communities, reinforcing ownership at the local level. Alongside these measures, community participation, or Jan Bhagidari, has been emphasised as a central element of the programme.

He emphasized on Jal Mahotsav, organised from 8 to 22 March, is a 15-day nationwide campaign aimed at promoting awareness and encouraging communities to take responsibility for managing water systems. It begins with Jal Arpan Diwas, where water supply systems are handed over to the community, strengthening ownership. The initiative reflects the understanding that sustainable service delivery depends not only on infrastructure but also on people's active involvement.

**Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS,** further highlighted on government's emphasis on decentralisation through Gram Panchayats, convergence across departments, and the role of technology in improving monitoring and transparency. He also highlighted the importance of sustainability through grey water management and stressed that strong institutional systems along with Jan Bhagidari are essential for ensuring long-term and reliable service delivery.

During the interaction, the Sri Lankan delegation appreciated India's efforts and noted that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a large-scale initiative that has not only improved water access but also strengthened community awareness around water management. They also shared that despite having multiple rivers and traditional water systems, Sri Lanka continues to focus on strengthening its water management systems.

They expressed interest in understanding India's approach to water quality management, efficient use of



Figure : 100 | Director, DDWS, giving presentation on the Jal Jeevan Mission | Source: NJJM



Figure : 101 | Secretary, DDWS, addressing members of the Sri Lankan delegation | Source: NJJM

water, and expansion of wastewater treatment systems in a cost-effective manner. They also highlighted the importance of optimising the use of treated water and strengthening system efficiency.

In response, officials said that efforts are being made to ensure safe and reliable water supply through improved water sources, particularly surface water, along with appropriate treatment systems to meet quality standards. They also emphasised the importance of integrating water supply with public health systems and promoting sustainable practices

such as grey water management and reuse. The role of strong institutional systems, inter-departmental coordination, and Jan Bhagidari was highlighted as essential for ensuring long-term sustainability of water services.

The discussion also covered the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen, which focuses on sanitation, waste management and behaviour change. Smt. Kritika Kulhari, DS, SBM-G delivered a detailed presentation and Smt. Aishwarya Singh, JS & MD, SBM-G answered all the query raised by Sri Lankan delegates, which were mostly





Figure : 102 | AS & MD, NJJM interacting with delegates | Source: NJJM

on greywater management. Together, water and sanitation programmes are contributing to improved public health and better living conditions in rural areas.

The interaction highlighted that while India and Sri Lanka operate in different contexts, the challenges of water management and sustainability are similar. India's experience offers useful lessons in community participation, use of technology, and decentralised systems, but it also shows that long-term success depends on sustaining these systems and ensuring reliable service delivery. Such exchanges between countries are important as they create opportunities for shared learning and help strengthen approaches to managing water resources in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJMJ



Figure : 103 | Delegates from Sri Lanka | Source: NJJM



Figure : 103 | JS&MD SBM-G, JS (Water) interacting with delegates | Source: NJJM



Figure : 104 | Delegates from Sri Lanka with DDWS officials | Source: NJJM





# Glimpses of Jal Mahotsav Across the Country





# Glimpses of Jal Mahotsav Across the Country





# Jal Jeevan Mission in Media

### जल महोत्सवमा सोरेड जिल्ला पञ्चायतका प्रतिनिधिहरू सम्मानित

सोरेड जिल्लाको पञ्चायतका प्रतिनिधिहरूलाई जल महोत्सवमा सहभागिताका लागि सम्मानित गरिएको छ।

### विज्ञान, प्रविधिको विकासको लागि जल महोत्सवको आयोजना

जल महोत्सवको अवसरमा विज्ञान र प्रविधिको विकासको लागि जल महोत्सवको आयोजना गरिएको छ।

### जल प्रबंधन में मध्यप्रदेश का बढ़ा गौरव

मध्य प्रदेशको जल प्रबंधनमा उत्कृष्ट कामको लागि जल महोत्सवमा सम्मानित गरिएको छ।

### 'जल महोत्सव-२०२३'को शुभारम्भ

जल महोत्सव-२०२३को शुभारम्भ गर्दै राष्ट्रपति जल महोत्सवको महत्व र जल संरक्षणको आवश्यकतालाई उजागर गर्नुमा सफल भए।

### President Murmu Calls for Making Water Conservation Part of Daily Life

President Murmu has called for making water conservation a part of daily life. He emphasized the need for sustainable water management practices.

### Integrate Water Conservation into Daily Life for Secure Future: President Murmu

President Murmu has called for integrating water conservation into daily life to ensure a secure future. He stressed the importance of sustainable water management practices.

### President Murmu highlights importance of water conservation at Jal Mahotsav 2026

President Murmu has highlighted the importance of water conservation at the Jal Mahotsav 2026. He stressed the need for sustainable water management practices to ensure a secure future.

### صدر جمہوریہ ہند کی 'جیل مہوٹساف 2026' میں شرکت

صدر جمہوریہ ہند کی 'جیل مہوٹساف 2026' میں شرکت کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے پانی کی حفاظت اور جल conservation کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔

### President Droupadi Murmu highlights importance of water conservation at Jal Mahotsav 2026

President Droupadi Murmu has highlighted the importance of water conservation at the Jal Mahotsav 2026. She stressed the need for sustainable water management practices to ensure a secure future.

### नई दिल्ली: राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू 'जल महोत्सव 2026' में हुई शामिल

नई दिल्ली: राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू 'जल महोत्सव 2026' में हुई शामिल होकर पानी की सुरक्षा और जल conservation के महत्व पर बोलें।

## 82% of rural homes now have tap water, says President

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that 82 per cent of rural households now have tap water connections, against 17 per cent in 2019 when the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched. Addressing the Jal Mahotsav programme, the President said water is not



success, I congratulate Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil and his entire team," she said. "Water is the basis of life. In our traditions, water has been revered as a remedy for many ailments. In our national song Vande Mataram — whose 150th anniversary of composition we are commemorating — the very first word is 'Sujalam', which

Pointing out that earlier rural households had to struggle for access to drinking water, and that women and children often had to travel long distances to fetch it, the President said that today, clean and safe water reaches homes, reflecting the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The President also emphasised the role of tech-



# Jal Jeevan Mission in Media

## जल संरक्षण को जीवन का हिस्सा बनाएं : राष्ट्रपति



नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च 2026 को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने जल संरक्षण को जीवन का हिस्सा बनाने का आह्वान किया। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे जीवन का अविभाज्य हिस्सा है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए।

## To secure the future, water conservation must be made an integral part of life: President



New Delhi, Agency: President Droupadi Murmu said that water conservation is a collective responsibility and we must view water not just as a commodity for consumption but as a priceless heritage for future generations. She said that to secure our future, it is essential to make water conservation an integral part of life and behavior. The President said this while participating at the Jal Mahotsav 2026 held here on Wednesday. She said that in India, water is not just a basic necessity but is also linked to our culture, traditions, livelihoods, and community life. She said that for a long time, people in villages, especially women and children, had to travel long distances to fetch drinking water. Providing clean drinking water was not just a matter of convenience but also involved time, health, and dignity. To address these challenges, the Central Government launched the Jal Jeevan Mission, through which villages now have access to clean and safe drinking water in their homes.

## Rural tap water connections rose from 17 to 82 per cent since launch of JJM: President



basic facility; it is deeply connected with our culture, traditions, livelihoods and community life," she added. Pointing out that earlier rural households had to struggle for access to drinking water, and that women and children often had to travel long distances to fetch it, Murmu said that today, clean and safe water reaches homes. reflect-

## Soreng panchayat leaders honoured at national Jal Mahotsav event



Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil presented an award to a woman from Soreng panchayat at the national Jal Mahotsav event. The award was presented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in New Delhi. The award was presented to a woman from Soreng panchayat for her contribution to the Jal Jeevan Mission.

## राष्ट्रपति: जल संरक्षण और सुरक्षित जल को तब तक सुरक्षित रखें। जल जीवन मिशन की शुरुआत के बाद ग्रामीण नल कनेक्शन 17 से बढ़कर 82 फीसद हुए: मुर्मू



राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि जल हमारे जीवन का अविभाज्य हिस्सा है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए।

## भविष्य सुरक्षित करने के लिए जल संरक्षण को जीवन का अभिन्न हिस्सा बनाना होगा: राष्ट्रपति

नई दिल्ली, 17 मार्च 2026 को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने जल संरक्षण को जीवन का हिस्सा बनाने का आह्वान किया। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे जीवन का अविभाज्य हिस्सा है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जल हमारे स्वास्थ्य और जीवन का आधार है और हमें इसे सुरक्षित रखना चाहिए।

## Over 15 crore rural households have tap water under JJM: Patil

NEW DELHI, MAR 11 (PTI): Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on Wednesday said more than 15 crore rural households in the country are now receiving tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



Addressing the Jal Mahotsav 2026 programme, Patil said the mission launched in 2019 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi aimed not only to provide tap water but also to usher in a new era of health, dignity and convenience in rural India. "There was a time when the responsibility of fetching water in villages mainly rested on women and children. Nearly nine crore women had to travel long distances daily to bring water, spending around 3.5 crore hours every day carrying heavy loads," he said. "Today, they have been freed from this burden. With the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, the risk of water borne diseases such as typhoid and malaria has also reduced," the minister added. Patil said more than 89% of schools and over 85% of anganwadi centres in rural areas have now been provided with tap water for children. Patil said under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved a grant of Rs 1.51 lakh crore.



President Droupadi Murmu Emphasises Water Conservation at Jal Mahotsav 2026

## President Droupadi Murmu Attends Jal Mahotsav 2026, Stresses Conservation



President Droupadi Murmu attended the Jal Mahotsav 2026 event in New Delhi today. She stressed the importance of water conservation and the role of the Jal Jeevan Mission in providing clean and safe drinking water to rural households. She said that the mission has made significant progress in providing tap water to rural households and has improved the health and dignity of women and children. She said that the mission has made significant progress in providing tap water to rural households and has improved the health and dignity of women and children.



# Jal Jeevan Mission in Media

जल महोत्सव 2026 और सुजल ग्राम संवाद का सम्पन्न समाचार

## जल जीवन मिशन से बदली ग्रामीण जीवन की तस्वीर: सी.आर. पाटिल

सीकरा, गुजरात  
सीकरा में जल जीवन मिशन के जल जीवन मिशन से ग्रामीण जीवन की तस्वीर बदल गई है। सी.आर. पाटिल ने कहा कि ग्रामीण जीवन की तस्वीर बदल गई है। सी.आर. पाटिल ने कहा कि ग्रामीण जीवन की तस्वीर बदल गई है।



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Author:	Shikha Jaiswal
Editor:	Shikha Jaiswal
Language:	English
Topic:	Jal Jeevan Mission

### Guidelines for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Released on World Water Day

New Delhi. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, released the operational guidelines for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 on Monday, marking the conclusion of the 'Jal Mahotsav 2026'—an event organized on the occasion of World Water Day. On this occasion, a 'Sugai Gram Samvad' (Deep Water Village Dialogue) was organized with representatives from five villages across five states, during which suggestions regarding water management at the rural level were shared. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil and Minister of State, V. Suresh Kumar participated in the program virtually. The Jal Mahotsav 2026 was organized as a 10-day nationwide campaign spanning from March 8 to March 22, promoting water conservation through initiatives such as 'Jal Tapas' (Water Offerings) and public participation. Union Minister Patil stated that the Jal Jeevan Mission is not limited merely to providing tap connections; rather, it is a campaign aimed at improving the lives of people in rural India—particularly women and children. He explained that the second phase of the Mission will now emphasize sustainability, functionality, and quality of service, ensuring that every rural household receives regular, adequate, and safe drinking water over the long term. He further added that, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, programs such as 'Jal Utsav' and 'Shakti Utsav' are being promoted to transform water conservation into a mass movement. Minister of State Suresh Kumar stated that the Jal Mahotsav 2026 has evolved into a national campaign, effectively strengthening public participation. Through village-level meetings, awareness programs, and school-based activities, people were motivated to be the champions of water conservation.



Union Minister for Jal Shakti Releases Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Guidelines digitally at Jal Mahotsav 2026 Culmination on World Water Day, For Odisha, Shri Ananjay Tiwari was present in person at Bhanagan village, Chandol GP, Kendrapara district and facilitated the interaction with Panchayat, district administration and community members



## Jal Jeevan Mission 2 Guidelines Released As Jal Mahotsav Concludes With Nationwide Participation



The Ministry of Jal Shakti marked World Water Day with the digital release of the Operational Guidelines for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, as the 10-day Jal Mahotsav 2026 concluded with strong nationwide participation and renewed focus on sustainable rural drinking water systems. The culmination event, held alongside the 10th Sugai Gram Samvad, was attended virtually by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil and Minister of State for Jal Shakti, V. Suresh Kumar, along with senior officials of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The release of the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 guidelines follows Cabinet approval for the extension of the mission till December 2030, signifying a strategic shift from infrastructure expansion to long-term service delivery, governance reforms, and sustainability. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister C.R. Patil said Jal Jeevan Mission has evolved beyond a scheme for tap water connections into a transformative national initiative that has improved dignity, health and ease of living, particularly for women and children in rural India. He emphasized that while the first phase focused on infrastructure creation, the second phase prioritizes functionality, accountability and sustainable service delivery to ensure that every rural household receives regular, adequate and safe drinking water.

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## विश्व जल दिवस पर जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के दिशा-निर्देश जारी

“जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के दिशा-निर्देश जारी”  
जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के दिशा-निर्देश जारी। जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के दिशा-निर्देश जारी। जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के दिशा-निर्देश जारी।

## विश्व जल दिवस पर ग्राम हरदौत में सुजल ग्राम संवाद का आयोजन

केन्द्र में श्री वी.पी. के माध्यम से हुए शामिल, विद्यार्थकों ने ग्रामों का जल का अपव्यक्त रिकॉर्ड किया प्रीत  
राजपुर, पश्चिम बंगाल। विश्व जल दिवस के अवसर पर 22 मार्च 2026 को विश्व जल दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में जल जीवन मिशन के तहत ग्राम हरदौत में सुजल ग्राम संवाद का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में केन्द्र में श्री वी.पी. के माध्यम से ग्रामों का जल का अपव्यक्त रिकॉर्ड किया प्रीत। कार्यक्रम में ग्रामों का जल का अपव्यक्त रिकॉर्ड किया प्रीत।



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Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

# Jal Jeevan Samvad



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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