Jal Jeevan Samvad

July | Volume 7 | Issue 7 | Year 2026

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Building Partnership
Changing Lives

District/ Village
Dialogues Series

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



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Design: Arif Khan

Edition: 70th (July 2026)

Publisher: **Arun Kumar,** Under Secretary (DDWS)
National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi - 110 003
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Minister of Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



C R Patil
Minister of Jal Shakti

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री Narendra Modi जी के 'कैच द रेन – जल संचय, जन भागीदारी' अभियान के आह्वान से प्रेरित होकर जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत 'पेयजल का सम्मान और संरक्षण' का आयोजन 21 जुलाई से 04 अगस्त 2026 तक किया जा रहा है। बारिश की हर बूंद को सहेजने, पेयजल स्रोतों के संरक्षण एवं पुनर्जीवन, भूजल पुनर्भरण को बढ़ावा देने तथा जन-सामूहिक हर घर जल : जल संरक्षण शपथ के माध्यम से जल सुरक्षा को जनआंदोलन बनाएं। लोक जल उत्सव एवं ग्राम पंचायत स्तर पर जल अर्पण दिवस जैसे कार्यक्रमों से जुड़कर 'जल संचय जन भागीदारी' अभियान को सशक्त बनाएं और हर घर जल की सततता सुनिश्चित करने में अपना योगदान दें।

- Hon'ble Union Minister, Jal Shakti
Posted on X handle, 21st July, 2026

Minister of State, Jal Shakti on Jal Jeevan Mission



V. Somanna
Minister of State for Jal Shakti

....I shared our Government's vision for empowering India's youth and discussed the roadmap towards building a Viksit Bharat by 2047 under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. It was an inspiring exchange with these bright young minds, whose enthusiasm and commitment strengthen our confidence in India's future.

- Hon'ble Minister of State, Jal Shakti
Posted on X handle, 7th July, 2026



Foreword

The month of July witnessed several important initiatives that reinforce this transition from infrastructure creation to service delivery. Interactions of hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti with Members of Parliament from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Odisha, provided a valuable platform for discussing the priorities of JJM 2.0 and strengthening collaborative efforts towards sustainable rural drinking water service delivery. Public representatives play a vital role in connecting communities with governance systems, facilitating local participation, and supporting the long-term sustainability of water supply infrastructure. The constructive suggestions received during these interactions will contribute significantly to strengthening implementation at the grassroots level.

This issue also captures the essence of the 9th edition of Sujal Gram Samvad and the 10th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad. The stories and experiences featured in this edition reflect how - "States, districts and communities through Gram Panchayats are embracing the principles of sustainability and service delivery."

A notable focus area under JJM 2.0 is the strengthening of digital governance and asset management. Efforts related to digital asset inventories, Sujalam Bharat, geo-tagging and data-driven planning are laying the foundation for improved transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making. Technology, when combined with community ownership and strong institutional mechanisms, can significantly enhance the efficiency and sustainability of rural water supply systems.

The guidance issued on the effective utilization of 16th Finance Commission tied grants for water management and sanitation further underlines the crucial role of Gram Panchayats in sustaining drinking water and sanitation services. Empowered local governments, supported by appropriate financial resources and technical guidance, will remain central to achieving the vision of water-secure villages and sustainable service delivery.

As we move ahead, I hope all stakeholders including States, Union Territories, district administrations, Gram Panchayats, Village Water & Sanitation Committees, frontline workers and community members to continue strengthening the spirit of *Jan Bhagidari*. Sustainable water security can only be achieved when Gram Panchayats become active custodians of their water assets and resources.

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



Note from the desk of

Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

This issue of *Jal Jeevan Samvad* reflects the actions undertaken during July 2026. Interactions with Gram Panchayats through Sujal Gram Samvad and engagements with District Collectors through the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad highlighted the importance of local leadership, community ownership and sustained engagement in strengthening rural water governance. The experiences shared by communities and district administrations reinforce the understanding that sustainable water security is best achieved when local institutions become active partners in managing and sustaining water supply systems.

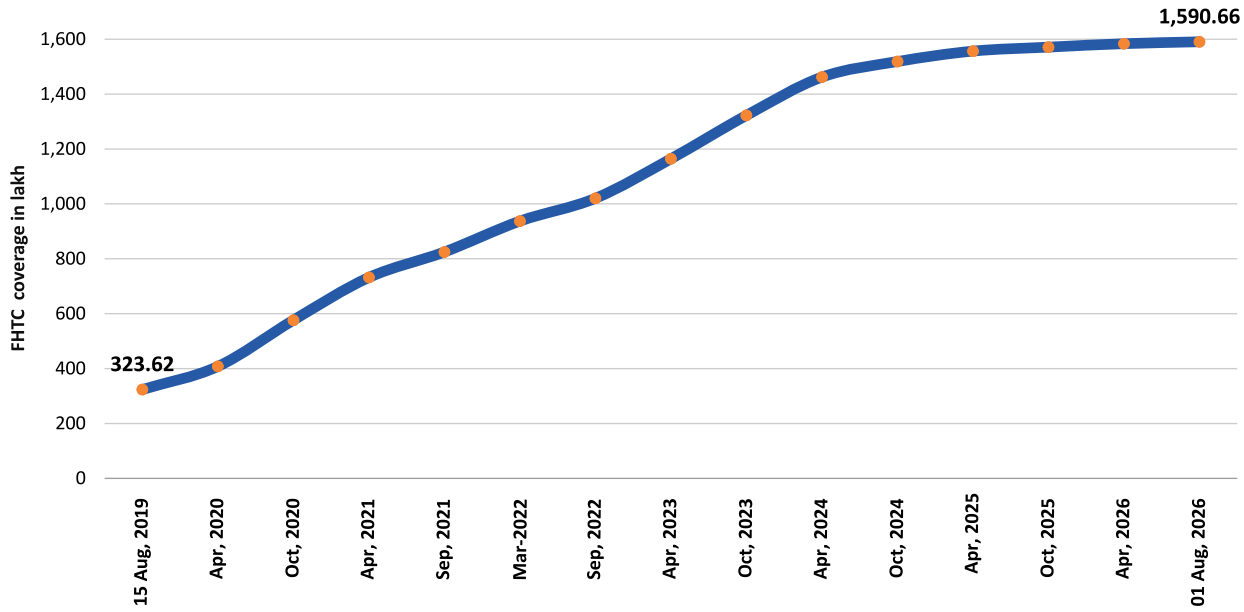
During the month, extensive reviews were undertaken with States and Union Territories on critical reform priorities under JJM 2.0. Discussions focused on Jal Seva Aankalan, Har Ghar Jal Certification, Jal Arpan, District and State Improvement Plans, source sustainability and operational preparedness. Special attention was also given to accelerating drinking water coverage in PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA villages so that tribal and vulnerable communities receive the full benefits of safe and assured drinking water services. In July orientation of State/UTs on utilization of 16th Finance Commission tied grants for Water and Sanitation. The discussions emphasized the central role of Gram Panchayats in planning, operation and maintenance, water quality management, source sustainability and service delivery. These grants present an important opportunity for strengthening local governance, enhancing sustainability of assets and ensuring long-term functionality of rural drinking water and sanitation infrastructure.

Field engagements remained an important part of our efforts during the month. The visit to Jammu & Kashmir provided an opportunity to review progress under JJM 2.0, assess Har Ghar Jal certification efforts and witness community participation in water quality surveillance and management of drinking water systems in challenging mountainous terrain. Similarly, the visit to Odisha highlighted the importance of Jal Arpan as a mechanism for transferring ownership of water supply assets to Gram Panchayats and communities, thereby strengthening long-term sustainability and local accountability.

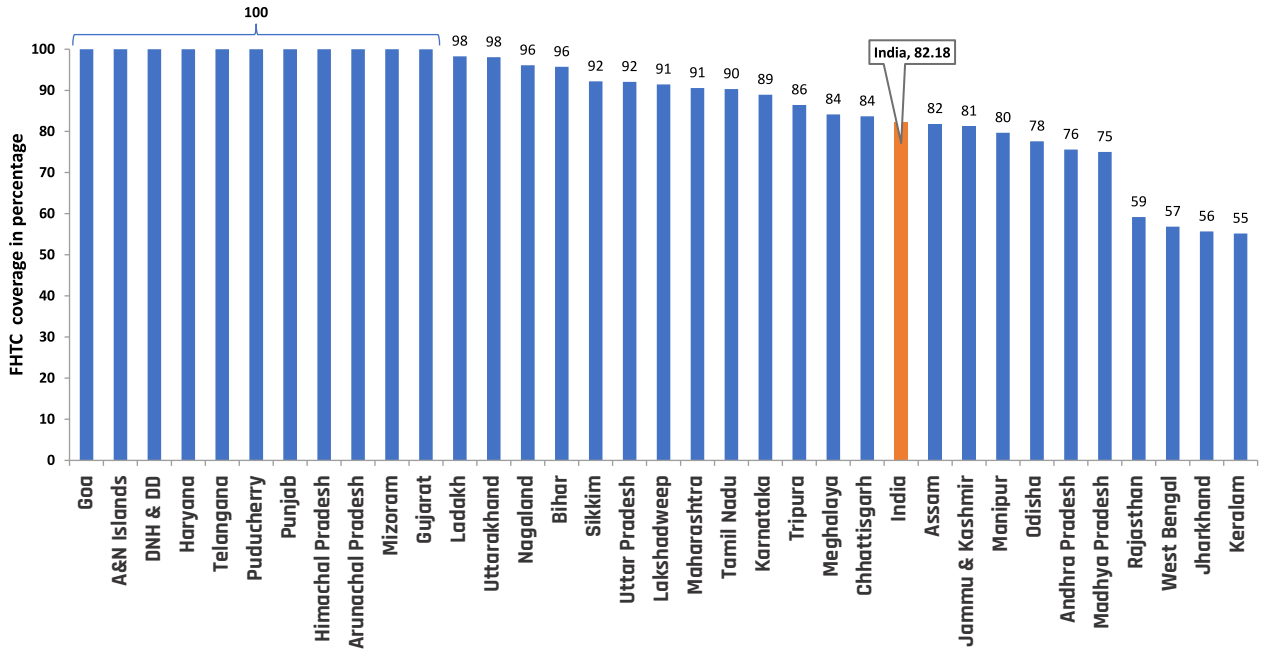
As we move forward, all stakeholders to continue prioritizing service delivery, source sustainability, water conservation, operation and maintenance, digital governance and community ownership. The experiences documented in this issue demonstrate that the journey towards sustainable rural water security is a shared responsibility requiring continuous collaboration among governments, institutions and citizens.

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

Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.07.2026)



Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.07.2026)



- Graphical representation by Arpan De Sarkar, NPMU-NJJM

As on 31st July, 2026

Source: JJM-IMIS

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

Total number of households (HHs)	Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019	Households with tap water connections as on date
19,35,46,786	3,23,62,838 (16.72%)	+58 15,90,65,849 (82.18%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

12,67,03,011 (78.61%)

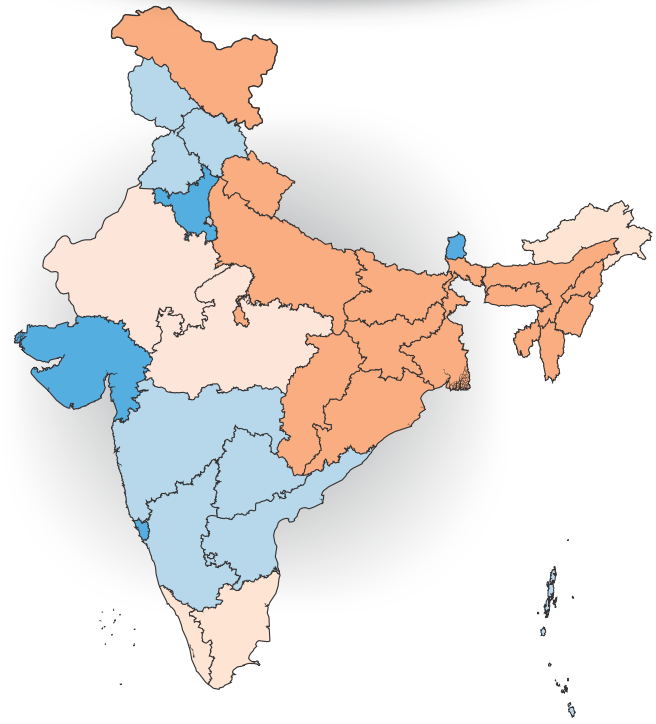
Har Ghar Jal [100% HHs with tap water connections]

100% FHTC States/ UTs

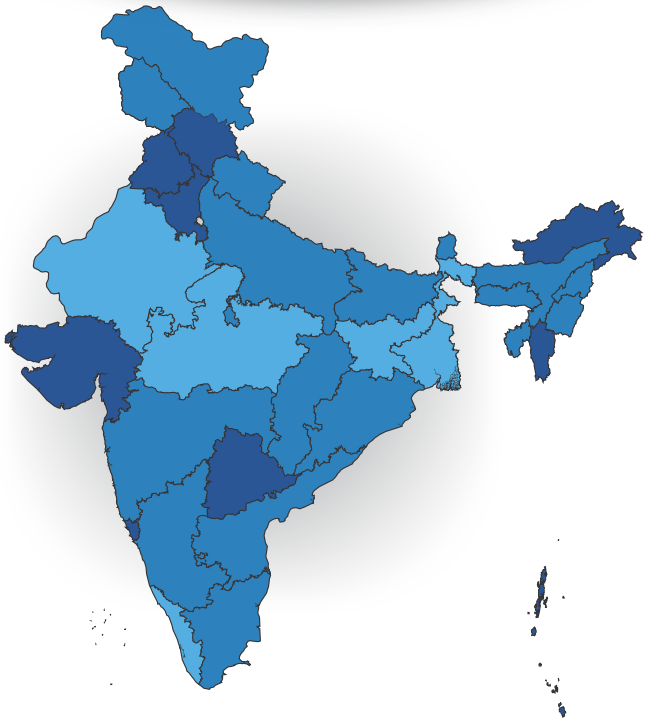
Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat

100% FHTC Districts	100% FHTC Blocks	100% FHTC Panchayats	100% FHTC Villages
191	1,949	1,33,137	2,88,624

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 31st July, 2026



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

Interaction with Members of Parliaments by MoJS

- **Lopamudra Panda**, NPMU-NJJM

As Jal Jeevan Mission transitions into its next phase with a renewed focus on sustainable service delivery, community ownership and long-term functionality of rural water supply systems, active engagement with elected representatives has assumed greater importance. Recognising the pivotal role played by Members of Parliament in addressing local challenges, mobilising community participation and monitoring development outcomes, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has initiated a series of interaction by Shri C.R.Patil, Minister of Jal Shakti, with Members of Parliament of individual states in to strengthen the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0. During July such interactions were held with MPs of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Odisha.

These interactions provide an important platform for sharing ground-level experiences, discussing emerging challenges, and identifying practical solutions for ensuring safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water services across rural India. They also reinforce the principle of cooperative governance by bringing together policymakers, administrators and public representatives to collectively advance the vision of Har Ghar Jal.

Interaction with Members of Parliament from Chhattisgarh

On **27 July 2026**, Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil held a detailed interaction in New Delhi with public representatives from Chhattisgarh. The meeting was attended by Shri Arun Sao, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Tokhan Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, and



Figure 1: MoJS, Dpt. CM, Chhattisgarh and MoS-MoHUA in an interactive mode | Source: NJJM



Figure 2: Members of Parliament, Chhattisgarh during interaction | Source: NJJM

Hon'ble Members of Parliament from the State.

During the interaction, progress made so far under Jal Jeevan Mission and the priorities of JJM 2.0 were discussed in detail. Valuable suggestions were received regarding strengthening drinking water service delivery, addressing region-specific challenges and enhancing the sustainability of rural water supply systems. Members of Parliament were encouraged to actively support implementation efforts within their constituencies and contribute towards ensuring timely and effective delivery of benefits to rural households.

The discussions highlighted the importance of continuous collaboration among State governments, district administrations, Gram Panchayats and community institutions in achieving the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

Interaction with Members of Parliament from Gujarat

Continuing the outreach, the interaction with Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Gujarat was held on **29 July 2026** at Garvi Gujarat Bhavan, New Delhi. The discussions were focused on the effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and on strengthening Operation and Maintenance (O&M) systems to sustain the achievements of Har Ghar Jal. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, former Union Minister and Hon'ble MP Shri Parshottam Rupala, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Government of Gujarat.

Valuable suggestions were received from the Members of Parliament, and active participation was sought from them in supporting effective implementation and sustainable O&M of rural water supply schemes within their constituencies. It was emphasized that continued engagement with public representatives plays a vital role in improving service delivery, resolving local issues, and deepening Jan Bhagidari in rural water



Figure 3: MoJS, former Union Minister and MP (Lok Sabha), Gujarat in an interactive mode | Source: NJJM



Figure 4: Members of Parliament, Gujarat during interaction | Source: NJJM

governance. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the commitment to sustaining Har Ghar Jal and ensuring continuous access to safe, quality drinking water for every rural family remains unwavering.

Interaction with Members of Parliament from Odisha

Subsequently, on **30th July 2026** a constructive interaction was held with Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Odisha in Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi. Discussions were focused on the effective implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and on strengthening Operation and Maintenance (O&M) systems to sustain the achievements of Har Ghar Jal. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Minister Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department-Odisha, Shri Rabi Narayan Naik along with senior officials from the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Government of Odisha.

Valuable suggestions were received from the Members of Parliament, and active participation was sought from them in supporting effective implementation and sustainable O&M of rural water supply schemes within their constituencies. It was emphasized that continued engagement with public representatives plays a vital role in improving service delivery, resolving local issues, and deepening Jan Bhagidari in rural water governance. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the commitment to sustaining Har Ghar Jal and ensuring continuous access to safe, quality drinking water for every rural family remains unwavering.



Figure 5: MoJS, and Minister PR & DW Dept. Odisha in an interactive mode | Source: NJJM



Figure 6: Members of Parliament, Odisha during interaction | Source: NJJM

9th Edition of Sujal Gram Samvad: Voices from India's Villages Shaping the Future of Water Security

- **Lopamudra Panda**, NPMU-NJJM

As the Jal Jeevan Mission enters a new phase with a stronger focus on sustainability, service delivery, and community ownership, one principle continues to stand at the heart of the mission: lasting water security can only be achieved when communities themselves become custodians of their water systems.

Over the past few years, India's rural water landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation. Millions of households that once depended on distant wells, streams, ponds, and hand pumps now have the convenience and dignity of tap water at home. Yet the story of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is no longer just about providing connections. The larger challenge today is ensuring that these systems remain functional, sustainable, and community-owned for decades to come.

It is against this backdrop that the 9th edition of Sujal Gram Samvad, organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, assumed special significance. Bringing together Gram Panchayat representatives, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Jal Sahiyas, Jal Sakhis, ASHA workers, teachers, students, district officials, and State Mission teams, the multilingual dialogue became a vibrant platform where villages spoke directly about their experiences, achievements, challenges, and aspirations.

Unlike conventional review meetings, Sujal Gram Samvad places the spotlight on the people who experience the impact of drinking water services every day. It allows policymakers and administrators to hear firsthand how communities are managing village water systems, mobilising resources, addressing local challenges, and building resilience for the future.

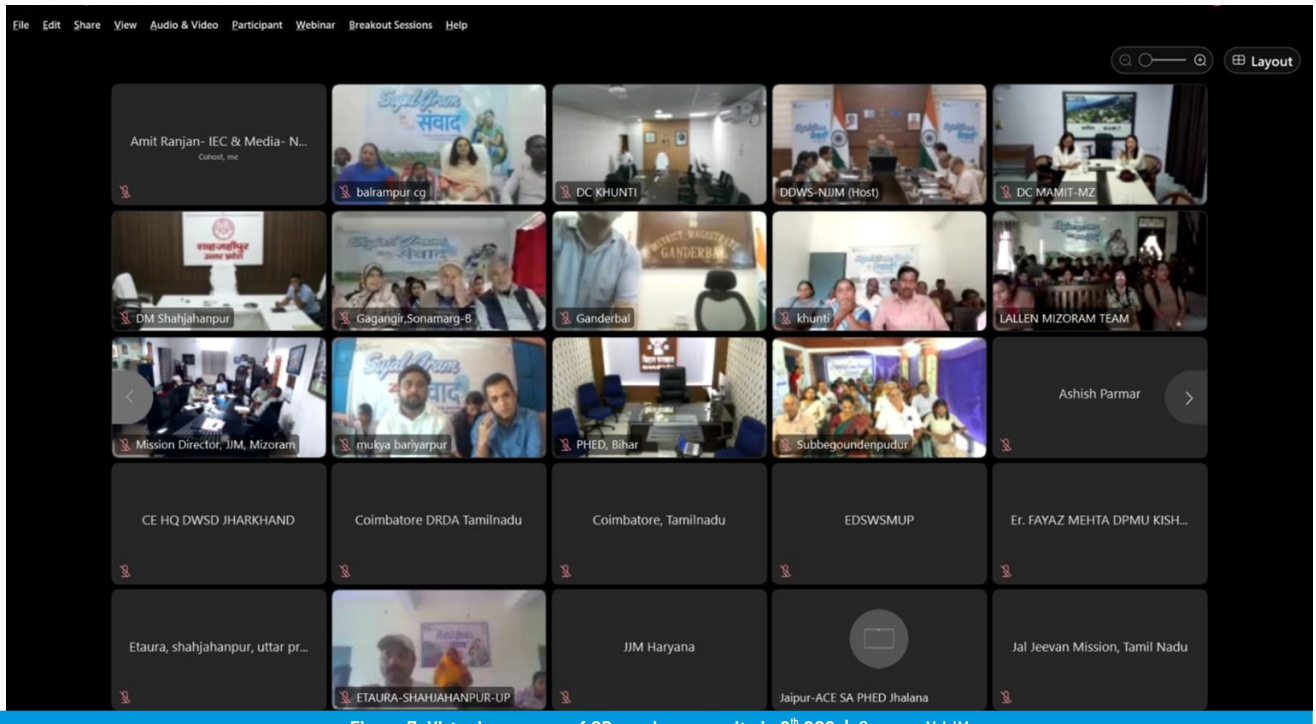


Figure 7: Virtual presence of GPs and community in 9th SGS | Source: NJJM

Community Ownership: The Defining Theme

Chairing the Samvad, Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, reiterated that the platform is designed to learn directly from Gram Panchayats and understand local innovations that can inspire replication across the country. He emphasised that drinking water and sanitation are subjects entrusted to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment and highlighted the importance of effective devolution of Funds, Functions and Functionaries (3Fs) to local bodies.

His message was clear: sustainability cannot be achieved through infrastructure alone.

Pipelines, treatment plants, storage reservoirs and household connections are essential assets, but they remain effective only when communities actively participate in their upkeep. Gram Panchayats, VWSCs, women, youth groups, frontline workers and local volunteers must collectively shoulder responsibility for operation and maintenance, water quality monitoring, source protection and financial sustainability.

The experiences shared during the Samvad demonstrated that this model is increasingly becoming a reality across rural India.

From the plains of Haryana to the mountains of Jammu & Kashmir, from tribal districts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh to the hills of Mizoram, communities are not merely receiving water services. They are learning to manage them, improve them and sustain them.

Different Languages, One Shared Vision

One of the most inspiring aspects of the ninth edition was its multilingual character. Conversations took place in Tamil, Angika, Hindi, Mizo, Hariyanvi and Sadri, reflecting India's diversity while reinforcing a common objective: ensuring that every village remains a "Sujal Gram" through active community participation.

Across the interactions, villagers spoke about reduced drudgery for women, improved health outcomes, better school attendance, stronger community responsibility, local innovations in water management, and growing awareness about source sustainability.

The stories may have come from different geographies, but they collectively highlighted how water is increasingly becoming a shared community responsibility rather than solely a government service.

Looking Beyond Infrastructure

During the concluding remarks, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, appreciated the commitment demonstrated by District Collectors and Gram Panchayats across the country. He reiterated the importance of regular DWSM meetings,

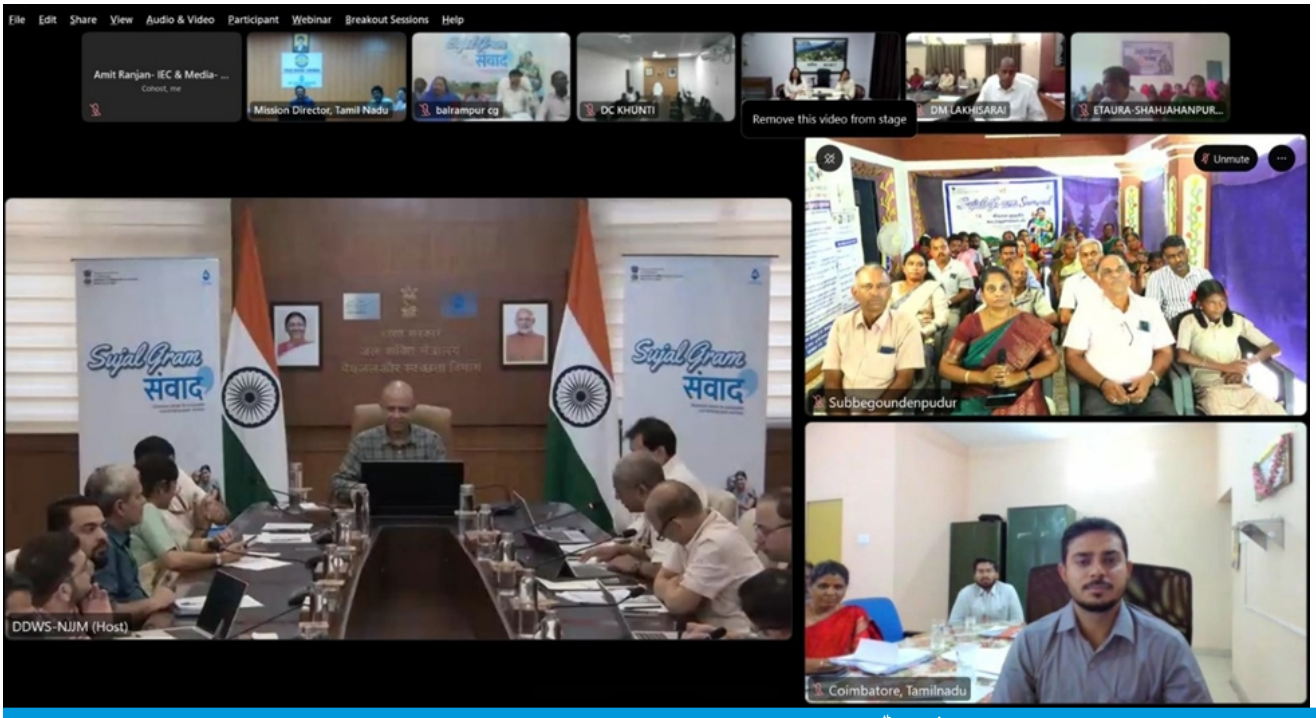


Figure 8: Secretary, DDWS interacting with DWSM, SWSM and community in 9th SGS | Source: NJJM

effective utilisation of 16th Finance Commission grants, source sustainability planning, and active participation in Jal Arpan initiatives.

He also encouraged Gram Pradhans to actively use the e-Gram Swaraj Portal, review the status of village water supply assets, and share information transparently with communities through Gram Sabha meetings. His message resonated strongly with the spirit of the Samvad: water security is most sustainable when communities become informed participants rather than passive beneficiaries.

The ninth edition of Sujal Gram Samvad once again demonstrated that India's rural water story is being written not only in policy documents and programme guidelines but also in village meetings, community WhatsApp groups, Gram Sabha discussions, FTK demonstrations, source protection activities and countless local initiatives led by ordinary citizens. From the snow-fed mountains of Kashmir to the tribal landscapes of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, from Tamil Nadu's organised community structures to Mizoram's responsive local maintenance systems, the dialogue revealed a common truth: sustainable drinking water security depends on empowered communities. As JJM 2.0 accelerates its focus on service delivery and sustainability, these Gram Panchayats offer valuable lessons for the entire country. Their stories remind us that every successful water supply scheme is ultimately a story of collective ownership, local leadership and community participation.

The voices heard during Sujal Gram Samvad are more than experiences. They are a roadmap for building resilient, self-reliant and truly Sujal Grams across India.

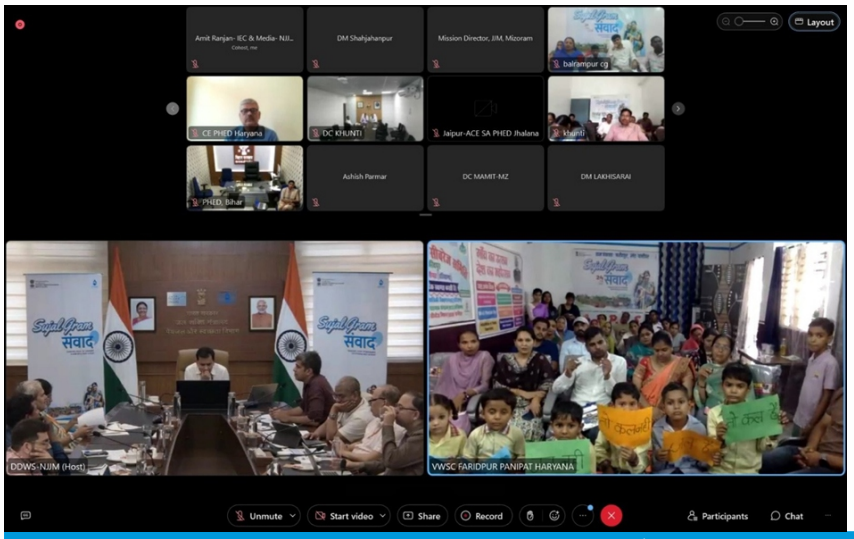


Figure 9: AS&MD, NJJM interacting with DWSM, SWSM and community in 9th SGS | Source: NJJM

Voices from the Gram Panchayats

Tamil Nadu



GP- Subbegoundenpudur, District-Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

- Achieved 100% Har Ghar Jal coverage
- SHG women actively conduct water quality testing through FTKs
- Monthly user charge system supports O&M sustainability
- Dedicated source sustainability initiatives and district-level source protection mechanisms are in place

During the interaction from representatives of GP Subbegoundenpudur in Tamil, they shared that the GP has achieved 100% Har Ghar Jal coverage across villages and habitations, supplying 55 LPCD through surface water drawn from the Bhavani and Aliyar rivers. Community members highlighted the active involvement of Self-Help Groups in water quality testing through Field Test Kits (FTKs) and regular awareness campaigns on safe water use. The GP collects ₹50 per month i.e ₹600 per annum as user charges. Further, the officials from the



Figure 10: GP and community interacting in Tamil language | Source: NJJM

District and State informed that the district was declared Har Ghar Jal on 29th June 2024. They are focusing on strengthening Jal Seva Aankalan, source sustainability measures and standard operating procedures for new household tap connections to ensure sustainable service delivery. A dedicated District Source Sustainability Committee has been constituted to protect drinking water sources and ensure long-term sustainability. Around 80,000 PVTG households have been covered under the Mission.

Bihar



GP- Bariyarpur, District- Lakhisaria, Bihar

- Significant reduction in dependence on scattered sources
- Reduced drudgery for women
- Surveys completed for uncovered tribal habitations
- Gradual transfer of completed schemes to Gram Panchayats for sustainable management

The village representatives shared their experiences in **Angika** language, highlighting water owes prior to JJM and said, many habitations relied on hand pumps and scattered local sources for drinking water. Household tap connections have significantly reduced the burden on women and improved access to safe drinking water. The interaction also highlighted the district's focus on extending piped water supply to remote tribal habitations and strengthening community participation in O&M.

District officials informed that surveys have been completed in uncovered tribal hamlets and piped water supply schemes are being implemented in a phased manner. They also highlighted regular DWSM meetings and the gradual transfer of completed schemes to Gram Panchayats for sustainable management.



Figure 11: GP and community interacting in local Angika language | Source: NJJM

Jammu & Kashmir



GP- Sonamarg B, District- Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir

- Reliable drinking water through gravity-fed spring water systems
- Insulated pipelines ensure water supply during harsh winters
- Active community participation in spring rejuvenation and source protection
- Nearly 30 springs rejuvenated

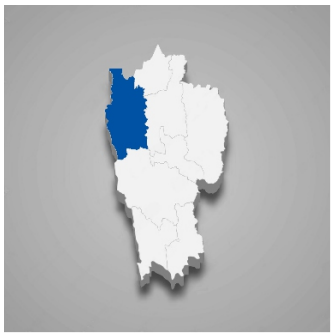
During the interaction with the village representatives of GP Sonamarg in **Hindi,** it was informed that the Gram Panchayat receives drinking water through gravity-based spring water supply schemes, which have substantially improved drinking water availability in the mountainous region. They informed that the community actively participates in protection and rejuvenation of natural springs, while youth groups support environmental conservation and cleanliness around tourist areas. The villagers also highlighted that community ownership has strengthened operation and maintenance of the schemes. Being Himalayan region earlier they used to rely on stream water but under JJM even in harsh winter they are getting uninterrupted water because of the insulated pipe water supply technology.



Figure 12: GP and community interacting in Hindi language | Source: NJJM

District officials informed that the district has undertaken rejuvenation of nearly 30 springs, prepared District Improvement Plans (DIP) for sustainable water security and continues to prioritise source sustainability, gravity-fed systems and convergence with other programmes and local institutions.

Mizoram



GP- Lallen, District-Mamit, Mizoram

- Strong community-led O&M framework t
- WhatsApp-based reporting for grievance resolution
- Locally engaged operators ensure faster repairs
- Convergence with Forest and Watershed programmes supports source sustainability.

Interaction with the village members of Mamit was carried out in **Mizo** language. The beneficiaries reported that the VWSC has established an effective community-led operation and maintenance system. Leakages are reported immediately through WhatsApp groups, while locally engaged plumbers and pump operators



Figure 13: GP and community interacting in Mizo language | Source: NJJM

attend complaints promptly. Community members highlighted regular awareness campaigns on water conservation and responsible water use. The District Collector informed that DWSM meetings are being held regularly and proceedings are uploaded. Convergence with the Forest Department, Rural Development and Watershed programmes is being strengthened to improve source sustainability, particularly in hilly areas where natural water sources are gradually drying up.

Uttar Pradesh



GP- Etori, District- Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh

- Improved health and reduced drudgery
- Regular Gram Sabha discussions on O&M and sustainability
- Community awareness drives promote responsible water use
- Focused efforts to cover vulnerable Koda and Kora tribal communities

The village representatives shared their experiences in **Hindi.** Household tap water connections under JJM have significantly improved access to safe drinking water, reducing the drudgery of fetching water and improving the health and well-being of the community. They highlighted that the GP regularly discusses O&M of the water supply system in Gram Sabha meetings, promotes responsible water use and water conservation, and encourages community participation in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the scheme. Village representatives also shared that awareness campaigns are being organised, and the GP is promoting timely reporting and resolution of water supply-related issues.



Figure 14: GP and community interacting in Hindil language | Source: NJJM

Further District Administration informed that special efforts are being undertaken to provide safe drinking water to Koda and Kora tribal habitations, ensuring that even the most remote and vulnerable communities receive safe drinking water through household tap water connections. They also highlighted regular DWSM meetings, Jan Chaupal programmes for community awareness, and focused orientation of Gram Panchayats on the Jal Sarthi App.

Haryana



GP- Faridpur, District-Panipat, Haryana

- Strong user charge-based O&M model generating regular revenue
- SHG women lead water quality monitoring activities
- WhatsApp groups support grievance redressal and maintenance
- Pioneer Gram Panchayat for implementing Haryana's O&M policy

The village representatives shared their experiences in **Hariyanvi** language and said that the GP has developed a strong community-led O&M model. A monthly user charge is collected from households and utilised for routine repairs, while locally appointed pump operators and plumbers ensure immediate rectification of leakages and other faults. Monthly ₹13,000 total revenue is collected towards user charge. Self-Help Group women regularly undertake water quality testing through FTKs, while school children, ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers conduct awareness campaigns on water conservation and safe water practices. The GP also uses WhatsApp groups and monthly community meetings for grievance redressal and timely maintenance.



Figure 15: GP and community interacting in Hariyanvi language | Source: NJJM

District and State officials highlighted Haryana's efforts to implement the State Water Policy by onboarding SHG women for user charge collection, water quality monitoring and grievance redressal, thereby strengthening community ownership of rural water supply schemes. Faridpur GP is the pioneer in implementing the O&M policy.

Jharkhand



GP- Husir, District- Khunti, Jharkhand

- Significant transformation in a predominantly tribal area
- Monthly user charge ensures O&M
- Gram Sabha actively oversees water system management
- Collaboration with SHGs, PACS and LAMPS strengthens sustainability efforts

The village representatives shared their experiences in **Sadri** language and informed that JJM has brought a significant transformation in the predominantly tribal Gram Panchayat by providing household tap water connections, eliminating the need to fetch water from distant streams and improving health. Gram Sabha plays an

active role in planning and overseeing the O&M of scheme. A local pump operator has been engaged to ensure regular water supply, while the GP has adopted a community-led user charge mechanism, collecting ₹30 per month per household, with economically weaker families being exempted. The Panchayat collects around ₹9,400 every month, which is utilised for payment of the pump operator, plumber, carrying out routine repairs and addressing pipeline leakages, thereby ensuring uninterrupted water supply and strengthening community ownership of the scheme.



Figure 16: GP and community interacting in Sadri language | Source: NJJM

District officials informed that a structured monitoring mechanism has been instituted under which district and block-level officers have been assigned villages for regular field visits, with every 4th Saturday marked for reviewing implementation of JJM and resolving field-level issues. They further shared that the district is working to expand community ownership beyond the VWSC by partnering with Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to strengthen operation and maintenance, user charge collection and long-term sustainability of rural drinking water systems.

Chhattisgarh



GP- Kotdhi, District- Balrampur, Chhattisgarh

- Fortnightly water quality testing through FTKs
- Water quality results shared t through WhatsApp groups
- Soak pits support greywater management and sanitation
- Convergence with multiple programmes strengthens source sustainability



Figure 17: GP and community interacting in Hindi language | Source: NJJM

The village representatives shared their experiences in **Hindi** and highlighted that JJM has significantly improved access to safe drinking water while reducing the burden of fetching water from distant sources. They informed that drinking water quality is monitored every fortnight using FTKs by trained community members. The test results are promptly shared with villagers through a dedicated WhatsApp group, ensuring transparency and enhancing community awareness regarding water quality. They further shared that soak pits have been constructed for the safe

disposal of greywater, contributing to improved sanitation and environmental sustainability. Regular awareness campaigns are also conducted to promote responsible water use and encourage community participation in the maintenance of village water supply assets. The GPs are leveraging 15th FC grants to support the O&M of rural water supply schemes. District and State officials highlighted the initiatives being undertaken for water conservation through convergence with VB-GRAM G and other programmes. They also shared various local development interventions aimed at strengthening source sustainability and ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural drinking water infrastructure.



Figure 18: A couple from rural India with their household tap
Source: NJJM

10th Edition of District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad

- **Lopamudra Panda**, NPMU-NJJM

The journey of the Jal Jeevan Mission has been one of transformation, collaboration, and collective commitment. Over the last few years, the Mission has succeeded in bringing safe drinking water closer to millions of rural households, changing lives, improving health outcomes, reducing drudgery, and strengthening dignity, particularly for women and children. As the Mission enters its next phase under JJM 2.0, the focus is steadily shifting from the creation of infrastructure to the delivery of sustainable, reliable, and quality water services.

In this context, the 10th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), served as an important platform for dialogue, learning, and action. Bringing together District Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, Mission Directors, and senior officials from across the country, the Samvad reinforced the central role of district leadership in sustaining the gains achieved under the Mission and charting the path ahead.

The Samvad was chaired by Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS. Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), and Senior Officers from DDWS were also present during the Samvad.

Strengthening the Foundation for JJM 2.0

Chairing the Samvad, **Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS,** highlighted that the launch of JJM 2.0 marks a significant transition in India's rural water sector. While the first phase focused on expanding access through infrastructure creation, the next phase emphasizes assured service delivery, long-term sustainability, water quality, and community ownership.

He underlined that rural water supply systems can remain functional only when communities actively participate in their management. Gram Panchayats and Village Water &



Figure 19: Opening remark by Secretary, DDWS | Source: NJJM



Figure 20: Address by Secretary, DDWS | Source: NJJM

Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) have emerged as key institutions in ensuring that water infrastructure created under the Mission continues to serve communities effectively for decades. District administrations therefore have a critical responsibility in facilitating local ownership, providing technical support, and ensuring monitoring mechanisms remain active.

He also stressed the importance of regular meetings of District Water & Sanitation Missions (DWSMs), proactive field supervision, and timely problem-solving. He called for strengthening District Technical Units (DTUs), which are expected to play a vital role in supporting operation and maintenance activities, troubleshooting technical issues, and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery across villages.

An important message emerging from Samvad was that sustainability cannot be achieved through infrastructure alone. Annual reviews, preventive maintenance, asset management, and community assessments must become routine practices. Initiatives such as Jal Arpan and Jal Seva Aankalan were highlighted as powerful tools for institutionalising accountability and community participation.

Community Ownership at the Core

One of the recurring themes during the discussions was the growing importance of community ownership in sustaining rural water supply systems.

The formal handover of water assets through Jal Arpan signifies a shift from a government-led programme to a people-owned service. It encourages communities to view water infrastructure not merely as public assets but as shared responsibilities. When Gram Panchayats and VWSCs actively manage schemes,

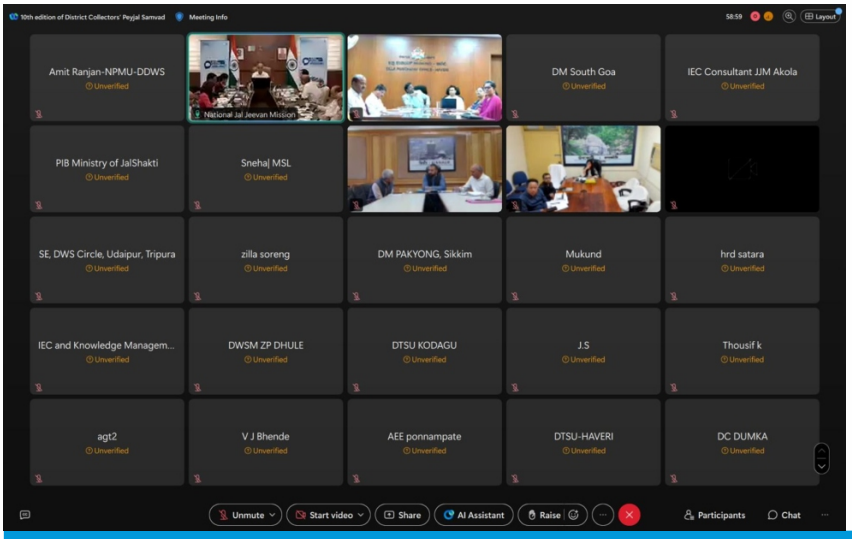


Figure 21: Virtual presence by state/UTs and districts | Source: NJJM

collect user charges, monitor services, and participate in maintenance planning, the likelihood of long-term sustainability increases significantly.

Similarly, Jal Seva Aankalan is helping communities assess the performance of their water supply systems and identify areas needing improvement. Such exercises strengthen transparency and accountability while empowering citizens to participate in decision-making processes related to drinking water services.

The Samvad emphasised that community engagement must extend beyond infrastructure management. Awareness campaigns, women-led water quality monitoring, village consultations, and regular Gram Sabha discussions are equally important for creating a culture of water stewardship.

Building a Digital Water Future

Technology emerged as another major area of focus during the deliberations.

Secretary DDWS urged districts to accelerate geo-tagging and digital mapping of water supply assets through the Sujalam Bharat platform and PM Gati Shakti framework. Creating a comprehensive digital inventory of rural water infrastructure, including sources, storage systems, pipelines, and household connections, is expected to improve planning, monitoring, and maintenance.

Digital tools can help identify service gaps, support preventive maintenance, track asset performance, and provide better visibility to administrators at every level. Such systems are increasingly becoming essential for managing large-scale rural water infrastructure spread across diverse and challenging geographies.

The emphasis on digital governance reflects the broader vision of JJM 2.0, where technology complements community participation to ensure efficient and transparent service delivery.

Ensuring Water Security for Tribal Communities

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, emphasized that sustaining *Har Ghar Jal* services is now the foremost priority under JJM 2.0, with Jal Arpan and Jal Seva Aankalan emerging as two critical annual exercises for ensuring long-term functionality of rural water supply systems. He urged District Collectors and officials of Rural Water Supply (RWS) /PHE Departments to actively participate in Jal Arpan programmes and involve elected representatives so that community ownership and *Jan Bhagidari* around drinking water infrastructure are further strengthened.

He highlighted the importance of addressing service delivery gaps identified through Jal Seva Aankalan and ensuring that rural water supply assets continue to deliver reliable services over next 25-30 years cycle. He further stressed the need to achieve saturation of tribal and PVTG habitations under PM JANMAN and DA-JGUA. States were advised to submit, by 31 July 2026, Apex Committee-approved proposals for any uncovered PVTG habitations requiring new water supply schemes. He also called for a joint undertaking from the RWS/PHED and Tribal Welfare Departments confirming the coverage status of all tribal and PVTG populations and their saturation plan by March 2027.

NJJM Presentation on Leveraging 16th Finance Commission Grants for WaSH

Shri Y.K. Singh, Director (NJJM), highlighted the important role of 16th Finance Commission grants in strengthening sustainable rural drinking water and sanitation service

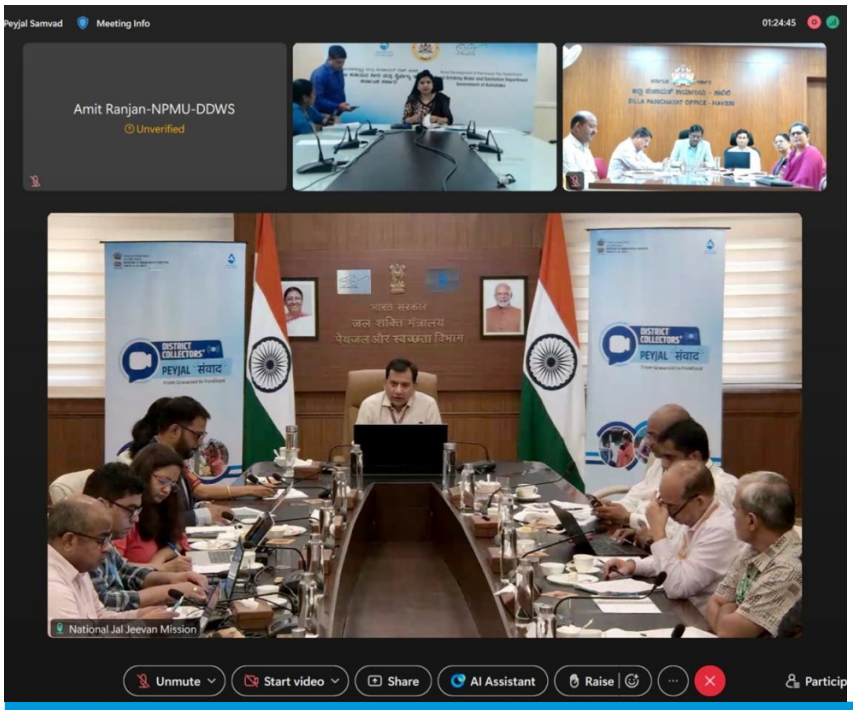


Figure 22: Address by AS&MD, NJJM | Source: NJJM

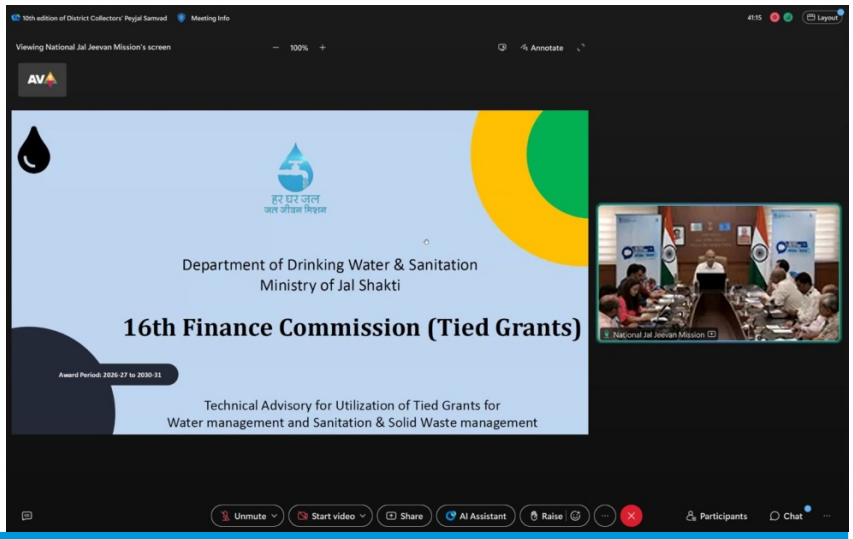


Figure 23: Presentation by Director, NJJM | Source: NJJM

delivery. He emphasized that the grants should be aligned with the objectives of JJM 2.0 and SBM(G), with priority accorded to O&M, service delivery, source sustainability, water quality management, and community ownership of rural water and sanitation assets. He underlined the central role of Gram Panchayats and VWSCs in managing these services and stressed the importance of user charge collection and prudent financial planning to ensure long-term sustainability.

He highlighted that the tied grants can be utilized for a wide range of activities suggested in the Technical Advisory shared by the department. He further emphasized the need for planning and utilization of funds through Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and annual sustainability plans based on assessment of service levels, financial gaps, and operation and maintenance requirements. States and local bodies were advised to prioritize functionality and sustainability of existing assets, strengthen community participation through Gram Sabhas, promote convergence with ongoing schemes, and ensure effective utilization of available resources for improved rural water and sanitation outcomes.

Learning from the Districts: Innovation in Action

During the Peyjal Samvad, a total of five districts presented their progress and best field practices which will further help other State's districts to develop better under JJM 2.0. Each presentation was delivered by the respective District Collector/ District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner/ District Officials.

- **Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh - Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner** highlighted the district's achievements in ensuring safe drinking water services despite its challenging mountainous terrain. A predominantly **tribal boarder district**, Kinnaur has achieved **100% Har Ghar Jal coverage across all villages**. Despite scattered habitations, heavy snowfall, landslides, flash floods, ageing distribution networks and dependence on glacier-fed gravity-based water supply schemes, the district has strengthened its water supply systems through source augmentation, additional storage, improved distribution networks and infrastructure modernisation. Key interventions, including strengthening of the Reckong Peo

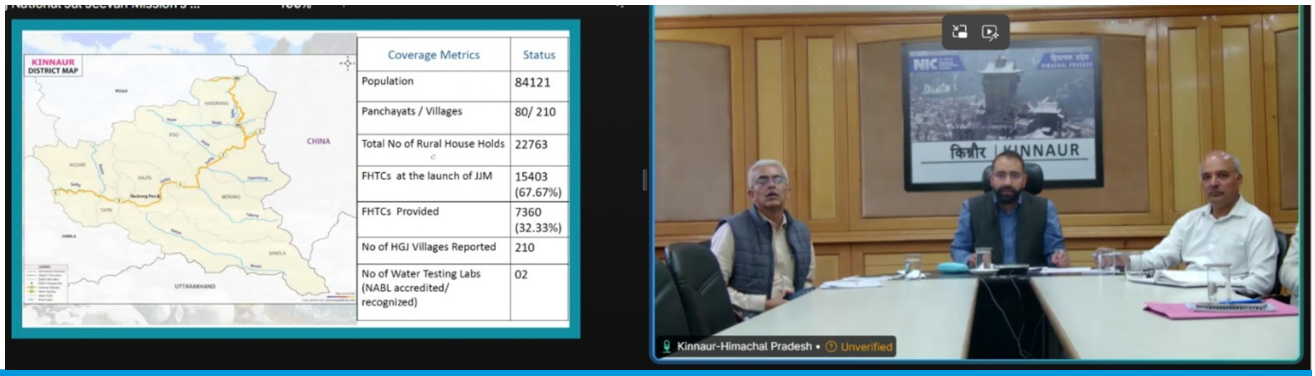


Figure 24: Presentation by Dpt. Commissioner, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh | Source: NJJM

Water Supply Scheme, remodelling of the Bhaba Valley Scheme, augmentation of the Kalpa Water Supply Scheme and provision of water supply to remote villages such as Pangi, have improved service reliability and drinking water security. The district has also proposed **winter-resilient water supply schemes** for strategically important border villages including Chhitkul, Sangla, Chango, Pooh and Nako to ensure reliable drinking water availability during prolonged winter months.

Dr. Sharma further highlighted Kinnaur's focus on long-term water security through pond rejuvenation, snow-water harvesting, groundwater recharge, greywater management and protection of traditional water bodies. The rejuvenation of Yulla Kand and Chakka ponds was cited as a notable sustainability initiative. The district has strengthened digital governance through GIS-based monitoring, adoption of the Sujalam Bharat digital registry, regular DWSM meetings and capacity building of VWSCs. Community participation has been promoted through Jal Mahotsav, Jal Arpan, training of women in water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs) and village-wide awareness campaigns.

- **Haveri, Karnataka - Dr. Vijaymahantesh B Danammanavar, Deputy Commissioner** highlighted the district's significant progress on JJM, through large-scale infrastructure development, technology-enabled monitoring, and community-led operation and maintenance. Haveri district has achieved **95.36% coverage** under JJM. To ensure sustainable drinking water supply, the district has implemented major Multi Village Schemes under the Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBOT) model covering villages and habitations, with three major DBOT schemes nearing completion.

He highlighted that all 223 Gram Panchayats have adopted O&M policies, supported by regular VWSC meetings, capacity building of Panchayat functionaries, geo-tagging of assets, and Sujal Gaon-based asset management. He further shared that six villages have been declared as **24x7 water supply villages**, resulting in reduced water consumption and lower pumping hours. They had introduced **Jeeva Jala** mobile application, under which QR codes linked to water quality test results are displayed at public institutions, that strengthens transparency and community participation.

- **Dumka, Jharkhand – Sh. Abhijeet Sinha, Deputy Commissioner** presented the district's efforts to improve the functionality and sustainability of rural drinking water infrastructure through convergence, community participation, and strengthened monitoring systems in the Santhali tribal-dominant district. He informed that several Jalminars in the district had become non-functional due to maintenance gaps and limited technical capacity. To address these challenges, the district converged resources from the 15th Finance Commission, PHED, DMFT, CSR, user charges and other sources along with JJM funds to restore drinking water assets.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the establishment of an **Integrated Control Room** for grievance registration, monitoring JJM schemes, tracking non-functional water assets and ensuring timely resolution through coordination with field officials. The district also trained and empanelled village-level Gangmen and developed local supply chains for spare parts to enable quick and cost-effective repairs. As a result, **8,225 hand pumps have been restored** out of 9,112 non-functional, significantly improving access to drinking water.

He further showcased initiatives such as Jal Arpan Divas, training and mobilization of Jal Sahiyas, user

Saturation of Haveri District under JJM : Current Status

Particulars	Total Numbers	Achievement
Total Works	735	700
Total SVS Works	720	700
Total MVS Augumentation Works	12	Augumentation Works are in progress.
MVS DBOT Works	3	Nearing Completion
Total Number of Households	294643	281203 (95 %)
Total Estimated Cost of 735 Works (In Crores)	2652.98	1817.03 (69 %)

Note:
In Haveri District, there are a total of 726 habitations. Of these:
- 454 habitations are saturated under the New MVS DBOT Schemes.
- 266 habitations are covered under the Existing MVS Schemes.
- The remaining 6 habitations are stand-alone schemes, which are saturated through in-village borewells.



Figure 25: Presentation by Dpt. Commissioner, Haveri, Karnataka | Source: NJJM

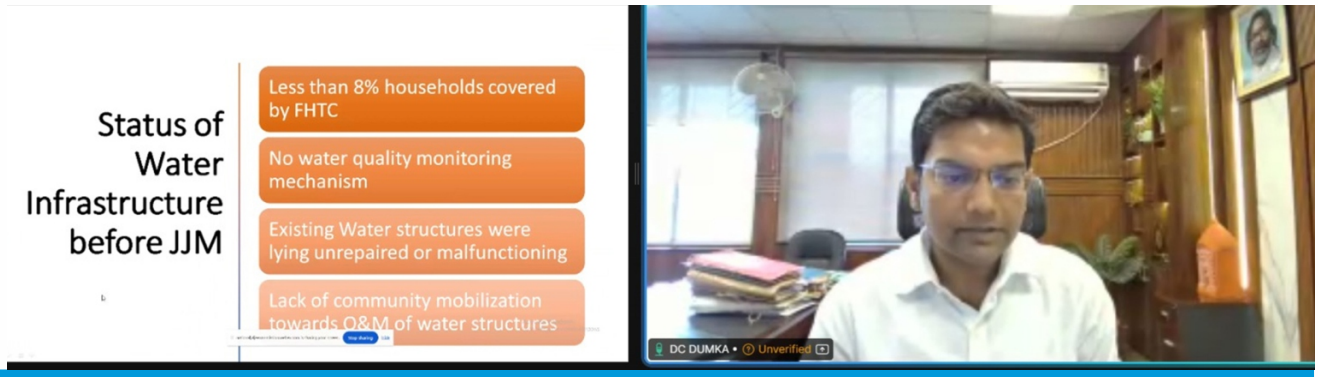


Figure 26: Presentation by Dpt. Commissioner, Dumka, Jharkhand | Source: NJJM

charge collection, water quality testing through FTKs**, and the JharJal App for monitoring and grievance redressal**. Case stories from villages highlighted the positive impact of these interventions on tribal and PVTG communities by improving access to safe drinking water and strengthening community ownership of water supply systems.

- **South Goa, Goa – Ms. Egan Cletus, Collector and District Magistrate** presented the district's achievements and outlined Goa's vision for sustainable and technology-driven water service delivery. She informed that all **118 JJM works in South Goa have been completed and commissioned**, ensuring functional tap connections to all rural households. She highlighted that nearly **96% of the State's drinking water demand is being met through surface water-based regional water supply schemes**, reducing dependence on groundwater and supporting long-term water security.

She further shared that Goa is moving towards becoming a **Smart Water Utility** through the adoption of GIS-based water supply network mapping, IoT-enabled real-time monitoring, SCADA systems, replacement of ageing pipelines, and planned smart water metering infrastructure.

She highlighted that **GIS mapping** from source to storage points has been completed and is being extended up to consumer connections to strengthen monitoring and service delivery. Regular DWSM reviews, village-level water quality testing by trained women members, source sustainability planning, and implementation of O&M action plans are being undertaken to ensure reliable and sustainable drinking water services.

- **Unakoti, Tripura – Ms. Megha Jain, District Magistrate & Collector** presented the district's progress under JJM, highlighting achievement of **89.16% FHTC coverage**, with 47,809 households provided tap water connections across the district. She informed that regular DWSM meetings, field supervision, third-party inspections, internal audits, and a robust grievance

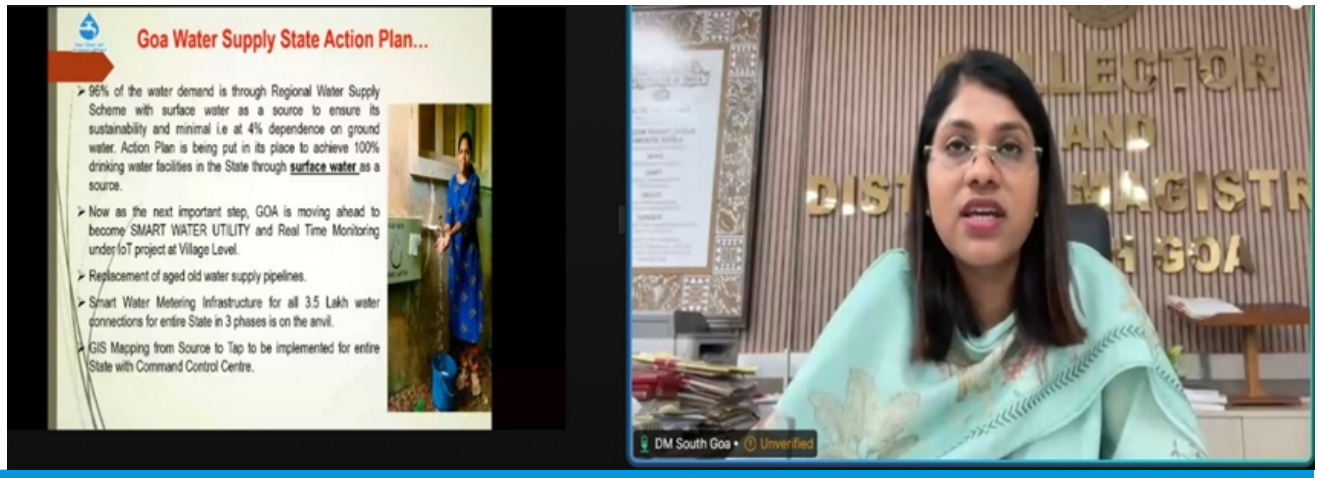


Figure 27: Presentation by Collector and District Magistrate, South Goa, Goa | Source: NJJM

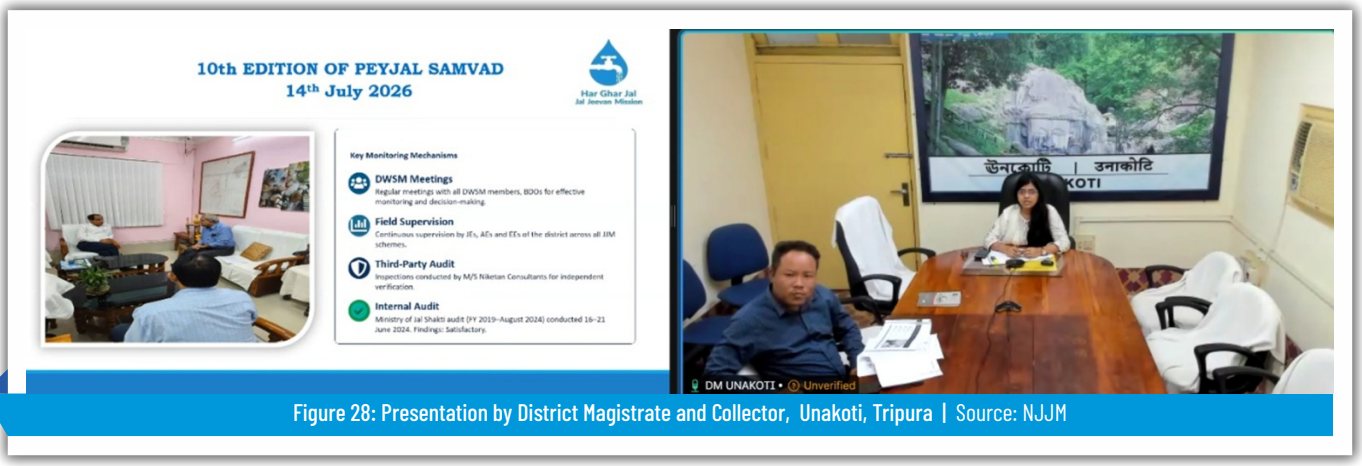


Figure 28: Presentation by District Magistrate and Collector, Unakoti, Tripura | Source: NJJM

redressal mechanism through scheme level register, the **Amar Sarkar Portal**, Chief Minister's Helpline, and **community WhatsApp groups** have strengthened monitoring and service delivery under JJM.

The District Magistrate highlighted the district's focus on source sustainability through groundwater recharge and convergence-based interventions. A total of **163 injection well structures** have been planned across the district, along with measures such as recharge structures, catchment protection, water budgeting, and convergence with MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission and SBM(G) for source conservation and greywater management.

She also shared the success story of the **Kaligiri surface water project** implemented in remote habitations near the Unakoti hill range close to the international border. Prior to JJM, residents of Kaligiri, Sertlang, Muraobari, Noabari and Deoracherra depended on seasonal sources and tanker-supplied water, while women had to travel long distances to fetch drinking water. Through a community-led approach, a perennial water source was identified and developed into a sustainable surface water supply scheme under **Amrit Sarovar**, providing safe drinking water through FHTCs to **households**, schools and Anganwadi Centres. The project has eliminated water scarcity, reduced dependence on tankers and improved public health outcomes in the area.

A Platform for Shared Learning

The District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad has evolved into much more than a review meeting. It has become a platform where districts learn from one another, exchange innovations, discuss challenges openly, and replicate successful practices across regions.

From snow-water harvesting in the Himalayas to smart water utilities in coastal regions, from grievance management systems in tribal areas to 24x7 water supply models in villages, the presentations highlighted the diversity of solutions emerging across India's rural water sector.

Each district operates under unique geographical, climatic, and socio-economic conditions. Yet a common thread runs through all success stories: strong leadership, community participation, technology adoption, and a commitment to sustainability.

The Road Ahead

As India advances toward the vision of universal and sustainable drinking water service delivery, the role of district administrations will become even more critical. JJM 2.0 seeks to ensure that every rural household not only receives a tap connection but also enjoys reliable, adequate, and safe drinking water for decades to come.

The discussions during the 10th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad reaffirmed that the future of rural water security lies in strengthening institutions, empowering communities, embracing technology, and investing in sustainability. Initiatives such as Jal Arpan, Jal Seva Aankalan, digital asset management, source sustainability planning, and convergence-based implementation are creating a strong foundation for this next phase.

The experiences shared by districts across the country provide valuable lessons and inspiration. Together, they demonstrate that when communities, local governments, and water professionals work in partnership, the vision of sustainable Har Ghar Jal can become a lasting reality.

As the Mission continues its journey, the spirit of collaboration showcased during the Samvad will remain one of its greatest strengths, ensuring that every drop counts and every household benefits from the promise of safe and reliable drinking water.

From Asset Creation to Service Delivery: Bringing the 16th Finance Commission Tied Grant Advisory to Every Gram Panchayat

– **Yogendra Kumar Singh,** Director, NJJM



Yogendra Kumar Singh

To support effective utilization of 16th Finance Commission Tied Grant, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, has issued a Technical Advisory to states on use of this grant by Rural Local Bodies. More than a financial guideline, the advisory provides a roadmap for sustaining rural water and sanitation services and aligns closely with the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

A key message of the advisory is that its success will ultimately be determined not at the State or District level, but at the level of the Gram Panchayat, where planning decisions translate into service delivery outcomes for rural households.

Strengthening Local Governance Through Finance Commission Grants

The 16th Finance Commission has recommended substantial grants for Rural Local Bodies during the award period 2026-27 to 2030-31. Half of the tied grant component is dedicated to water management and sanitation-related activities, recognizing these as core local governance functions under the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

The advisory reinforces the principle that Gram Panchayats are not merely beneficiaries of these resources, but institutions responsible for planning,



managing, operating, and sustaining rural water supply and sanitation services. This approach is consistent with the evolving vision of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, which places greater emphasis on long-term service delivery, operation and maintenance (O&M), community ownership, and sustainability.

The objective is clear: rural infrastructure must continue to function efficiently long after its creation. Investments should therefore focus not only on new assets but also on preserving and improving the performance of existing systems.

The Constitutional Foundation: Empowering Panchayats for Water and Sanitation

The vision underlying the 16th Finance Commission tied grants is rooted in India's commitment to decentralized governance. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, introduced Part IX of the Constitution and strengthened Panchayati Raj Institutions as the third tier of governance. It entrusted Panchayats with a greater role in planning and implementation of local development activities and added the Eleventh Schedule, which includes subjects such as drinking water, health, sanitation, and maintenance of community assets.

The 16th Finance Commission tied grants are not merely a fiscal transfer mechanism; they are an instrument for realizing the spirit of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment by empowering Panchayats to deliver sustainable water and sanitation services

Over the years, successive Finance Commissions have reinforced this constitutional mandate by channeling resources directly to Rural Local Bodies, enabling them to discharge these responsibilities more effectively. The 16th Finance Commission continues this approach by earmarking tied grants for water management and sanitation, recognizing that local governments are best placed to understand village-level needs and ensure sustainable service delivery.

The DDWS Technical Advisory further builds on this foundation by providing Panchayats with a practical framework for planning, operating, and maintaining rural water and sanitation systems. In doing so, it strengthens the constitutional vision of empowered local self-governance while promoting community ownership and accountability in service delivery.

The Central Theme: Service Delivery First

Perhaps the most important principle highlighted in the advisory is the "Service Delivery First" approach. Over the last several years, significant investments have been made in creating rural drinking water and sanitation infrastructure. The challenge now is ensuring that these assets continue to deliver reliable services. Water supply schemes require regular maintenance, pumps need repairs, water quality must be monitored, electricity bills must be paid, and sanitation facilities must remain functional and clean.

Accordingly, the advisory encourages Rural Local Bodies to prioritize operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure before proposing new construction works. This marks a significant shift from an infrastructure-centric approach to a service-centric approach.

The principle is particularly relevant in the context of JJM 2.0, where functionality, reliability, water quality, source sustainability, and user satisfaction are increasingly becoming key indicators of success.

Making Sustainability a Core Planning Principle

The advisory emphasizes sustainability in all its dimensions, including institutional, financial,



Figure 29: Presentation on 16th FC Tied Grant during 10th Edition of DCPS | Source: NJJM

infrastructure, and source sustainability. For rural drinking water systems, sustainability goes beyond maintaining hardware. It requires continuous assessment of water sources, preventive maintenance of assets, adequate budgeting, trained human resources, and community participation.

To support this objective, the advisory recommends that Gram Panchayats adopt an annual sustainability planning cycle. This includes assessing existing service levels, identifying gaps, estimating operation and maintenance requirements, preparing annual budgets, and integrating priorities into Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Such systematic planning can help Panchayats move from reactive maintenance toward preventive and predictive maintenance, thereby reducing breakdowns and service interruptions.

Activities Supported Under the Water Component

The advisory provides a broad range of permissible activities that Rural Local Bodies can undertake using tied grant resources for water management. These include protection and rejuvenation of drinking water sources, source sustainability measures, alternate arrangements during source failure, repair of pumps and motors, restoration of damaged infrastructure, and cleaning and maintenance of overhead tanks.

The advisory also places considerable emphasis on water quality management. Procurement of testing kits and reagents, installation of chlorine dosing systems, and purchase of disinfectants are specifically encouraged to support safe drinking water delivery.

Operation and maintenance expenditures such as electricity charges, bulk water charges, and payments to Nal Jal Mitras and other service providers have also been recognized as legitimate and important uses of tied grant funds.

Another notable feature is support for community engagement initiatives such as water budgeting, Jal Chaupal, Jal Seva Ankalan, awareness campaigns, and other IEC activities that strengthen local ownership of water resources.

Strengthening Sanitation and Waste Management Systems

The advisory similarly provides detailed guidance for sanitation and solid and liquid waste management activities. Rural Local Bodies may utilize funds for operation and maintenance of Community Sanitary Complexes, community compost pits, segregation sheds, Gobardhan units, grey water management systems, and faecal sludge management facilities.

Support is also available for sanitation workers, Swachhagrahis, and contracted personnel engaged in service delivery. This is significant because sustainable sanitation requires consistent human effort in addition to physical infrastructure.

The advisory further promotes waste segregation, composting, plastic waste management, door-to-door waste collection, and treatment of grey water through decentralized systems such as soak pits, DEWATS, and phytorid-based solutions.

Importantly, the focus remains on sustaining services and improving environmental outcomes rather than simply constructing additional infrastructure.

Aligning Planning with GPDPs

One of the most critical aspects of the advisory is its emphasis on integration with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan. As Panchayats prepare their GPDPs, the tied grant component is expected to reflect local water and sanitation needs, sustainability gaps, operation and maintenance requirements, and convergence opportunities with Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The advisory underscores that planning should be evidence-based rather than generic. Activities proposed in GPDPs should emerge from local assessments and sustainability planning exercises.

District administrations have a crucial role in ensuring that Panchayats understand the advisory and incorporate its recommendations while finalizing their plans. Effective dissemination of guidance and technical handholding can significantly improve the quality of GPDPs and help prioritize investments that directly strengthen service delivery.

Activities That Should Be Avoided

The advisory also clearly outlines expenditures that are not permissible under the tied grant framework. Funds should not be used for salaries of regular government employees, purchase of vehicles, construction of office buildings, or activities unrelated to water management, sanitation, or solid and liquid waste management.

Similarly, duplication of expenditure under other schemes should be avoided. The emphasis remains on convergence, efficiency, and optimal utilization of available resources.

The advisory also discourages creation of new infrastructure where existing assets remain neglected or non-functional, reinforcing the broader principle of sustainability and responsible asset management.

The Role of States and Districts in the Last-Mile Delivery of Guidance

While the advisory has been issued at the national level, its effectiveness depends on how well it reaches and is understood by local institutions. State departments serve as the primary link between DDWS and Rural Local Bodies. District administrations, including District Water and Sanitation Missions and technical support structures, play an equally important role in translating policy guidance into local action.

Their responsibilities include timely dissemination of the advisory, provision of technical support, capacity building of Panchayats, monitoring of planning processes, and ensuring alignment with national programme objectives. Most importantly, they help Gram Panchayats convert broad policy principles into practical actions that improve water and sanitation services on the ground.

A New Opportunity for Rural Service Delivery

The 16th Finance Commission tied grant framework offers an important opportunity to strengthen the sustainability of rural water supply and sanitation systems across the country. The DDWS Technical Advisory sends a clear message: the future of rural water and sanitation lies not merely in creating assets, but in ensuring reliable, safe, and sustainable services for every household. Operation and maintenance, water quality management, source sustainability, community participation, and institutional strengthening must become integral elements of local planning.

As Gram Panchayats prepare and implement their development plans, the advisory provides a practical roadmap for translating financial resources into lasting service outcomes. When effectively adopted, it can help strengthen local governance, improve functionality of rural infrastructure, and advance the vision of water-secure, clean, and sustainable villages under Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).



Figure 30: A rural woman with her tap connection
Source: NJJM

South Goa's Journey Towards Smart Water Utility: Ensuring Sustainable and Citizen-Centric Drinking Water Services

- **Egna Cletus,** District Magistrate & Collector, South Goa & Kushavati District



Egna Cletus

Goa has emerged as a frontrunner in providing safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water services by combining robust infrastructure with technology-driven governance. In South Goa and Kushavati District, the focus has now moved beyond infrastructure creation towards delivering efficient, inclusive and future-ready water services under the vision of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0.

Today, nearly 96% of the drinking water demand in the district is met through Regional Water Supply Schemes based on surface water sources, ensuring long-term sustainability while reducing dependence on groundwater to just 4%. With all Functional Household Tap Connections already achieved, the district is now implementing strategic interventions to strengthen service delivery and achieve the State's vision of providing 100 LPCD of safe drinking water in rural areas.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, 118 water supply works have been successfully completed and commissioned at an investment of over ₹32 crore. These schemes have been designed to provide 55 LPCD, ensuring reliable drinking water supply to every rural household through sustainable sources.

As part of JJM 2.0, South Goa is focusing on citizen-centric initiatives that strengthen community participation, water quality assurance and sustainable operation of rural water supply systems. Designated women members have been identified in every village for water quality testing, while village-level skilling



Figure 31: Metered tap water supply at houses | Source: DWSM, South Goa

programmes are being undertaken to build local capacity. Source Sustainability Plans are being prepared for all villages along with convergence strategies to secure drinking water sources for future generations. Monthly reviews through the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) ensure regular monitoring and timely implementation.

Technology has become the cornerstone of Goa's next phase of water sector reforms. The State is progressing towards becoming a Smart Water Utility through large-scale adoption of GIS and IoT-based monitoring systems. GIS mapping from source to storage has already been completed, and mapping from storage points to every metered household connection is underway. SCADA and IoT-based real-time monitoring systems have already been implemented at 74 locations, enabling improved operational efficiency, quicker response to system issues and data-driven decision making.

The State is also planning the implementation of Smart Water Metering Infrastructure covering approximately 3.5 lakh water connections in a phased manner. Supported by an integrated Command and Control Centre, this initiative will enhance transparency, improve service delivery and promote efficient water management across both rural and urban areas.

South Goa's approach is guided by seven key principles—adequate quantity, assured quality, sustainable tariffs, effective operation and maintenance, technology-enabled monitoring, community participation and long-term water security. The district is working towards the vision of 'Drink from Tap', ensuring reliable water quality while encouraging responsible water use through the principle of 'Pay as You Use.'

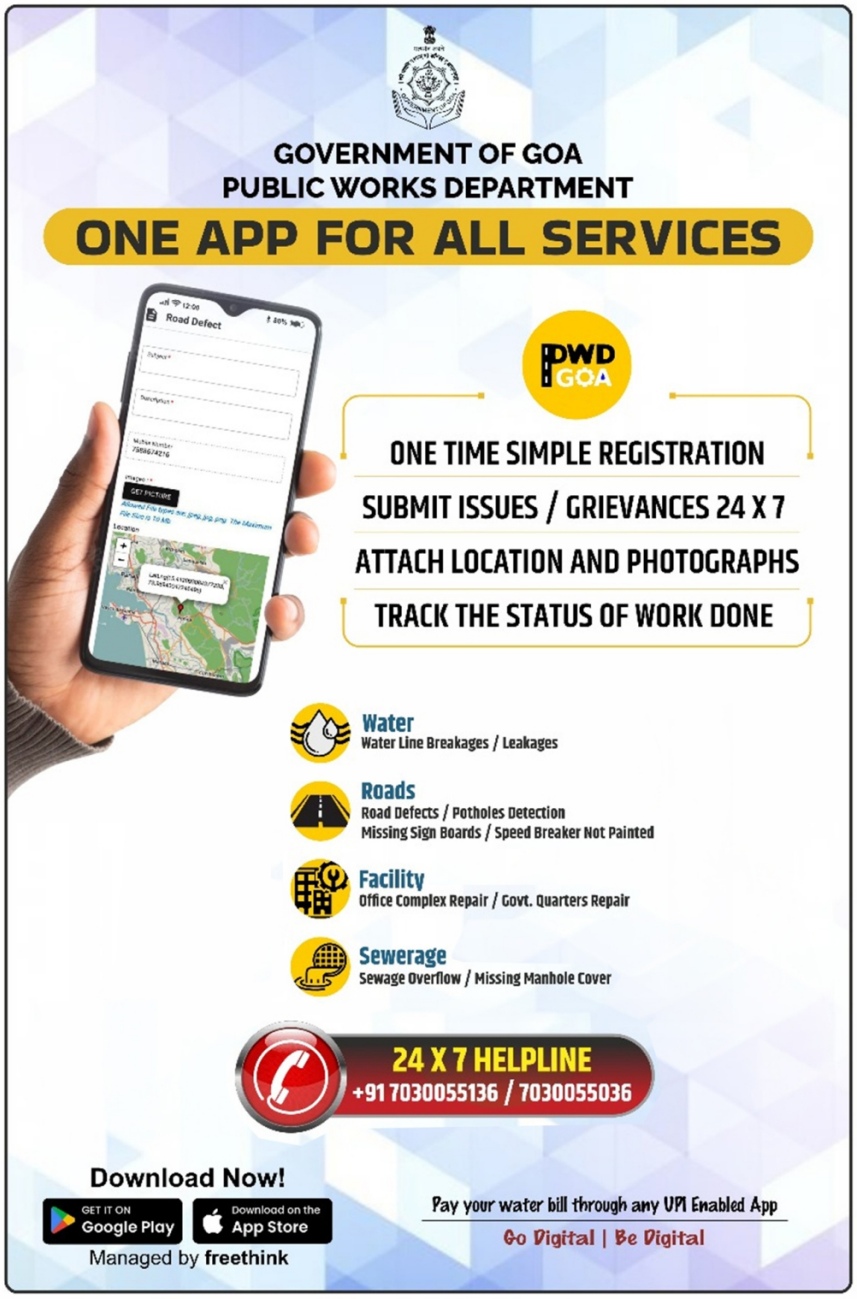


Figure 32: State developed one App for all services | Source: DWSM, South Goa

The State's best practices demonstrate that equitable access, sustainability and service quality can go hand in hand. Uniform water tariffs for rural and urban consumers, real-time on-the-spot billing with high collection efficiency, universal metered household connections and integrated planning for water supply and sewerage collectively reflect Goa's commitment to sustainable water governance. The progress achieved by Team Goa under the Jal Jeevan Mission underscores the dedication and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in enhancing the drinking water sector. Moving forward, South Goa remains committed to its vision of becoming a Smart Water Utility and ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable drinking water services for every citizen.

From Infrastructure to Service Delivery: Haveri's Journey Towards Sustainable Rural Drinking Water Management

- **Dr. Vijaymahantesh B Danammanavar**, Deputy Commissioner, Haveri, Karnataka



Dr. Vijaymahantesh B Danammanavar

Haveri district, located in the central part of Karnataka, has witnessed a significant transformation in rural drinking water service delivery under the Jal Jeevan Mission. With a predominantly rural population spread across 223 Gram Panchayats and 688 villages, ensuring access to safe and reliable drinking water has always remained a critical development priority. The district draws water primarily from the Tungabhadra and Varada river systems, which now form the backbone of its rural water supply network.



Figure 33: Anur DBOT scheme | Source: DWSM Haveri



Figure 34: Presenting Haveri initiative in 10th DCPS | Source: DWSM Haveri

Prior to the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, rural drinking water supply in many parts of the district relied heavily on borewells, open wells, hand pumps and local sources. Household tap water coverage stood at around 22.74 per cent, and several habitations faced water quality



Figure 35: A women beneficiary with HH tap connection | Source: DWSM Haveri

challenges, particularly related to fluoride and nitrate contamination. Dependence on multiple groundwater sources also resulted in high energy consumption and operational inefficiencies.

The implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission has enabled a gradual but significant shift towards sustainable and service-oriented water supply systems. Out of nearly 2.95 lakh rural households, more than 2.84 lakh households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), taking coverage to over 95 per cent. A total of 739 water supply works were taken up under different phases of the Mission, of which 714 have been completed while the remaining works are progressing towards completion. Investments exceeding ₹1,800 crore have already translated into improved access to safe drinking water for rural communities across the district.

A notable feature of Haveri's approach has been the adoption of large-scale Multi-Village Water Supply Schemes and **Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBOT)** projects based on surface water sources. These projects have reduced reliance on vulnerable groundwater sources while ensuring sustainable water availability to hundreds of villages and habitations. Major water treatment facilities, reservoirs and distribution networks have strengthened long-term water security across the district.

Alongside infrastructure creation, increasing emphasis has been placed on service delivery, operation and maintenance, and community ownership. All Gram Panchayats in the district have adopted Operation and Maintenance (O&M) arrangements, and dedicated water accounts are being maintained to support routine upkeep of assets. Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) are functioning as key community institutions, with regular meetings facilitating local decision-making and monitoring of rural water supply services. Continuous capacity-building programmes for Panchayat Development Officers and field functionaries have further strengthened local governance systems.

The district has also made substantial progress towards the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0. Jal Seva Aankalan has been undertaken through Gram Sabha-based assessments, supported by technical analysis at the district level. The findings have been used to prepare District Improvement Plans that will support evidence-based decision making and sustained service delivery. Regular joint inspections of pipelines, overhead tanks and water sources are being conducted to ensure asset functionality and infrastructure quality. Asset mapping and geo-tagging activities under Sujalam Bharat are also progressing.

An encouraging outcome has been observed in villages where **24x7 water supply** has been introduced. Six villages in the district have already transitioned to continuous water supply. Initial assessments indicate reductions in water wastage, lower pumping hours, improved energy efficiency and greater financial sustainability of village water supply systems. These experiences demonstrate how reliable service delivery can create incentives for more



Figure 36: Inauguration of 24X7 water supply in a village | Source: DWSM Haveri

efficient water use and stronger community ownership.

Water quality surveillance has also received considerable attention. The district is supported by NABL-accredited and recognised laboratories that regularly test drinking water samples from rural habitations. Community participation in water quality monitoring has been strengthened through periodic Field Test Kit (FTK) campaigns, covering schools, Anganwadi centres and households. Transparency has been further enhanced through Karnataka's Jeeva Jala platform, enabling citizens to access water quality information through QR-code-based systems.

An equally important dimension of the Mission has been the growing participation of women in rural water governance. Women are increasingly contributing to water quality monitoring, operation and maintenance activities, and community mobilisation efforts. The district's participation in national-level initiatives, including recognition received under various Jal Jeevan Mission forums, reflects the important role being played by local communities in ensuring sustainable drinking water services.

The experience of Haveri demonstrates that the success of Jal Jeevan Mission lies not merely in providing infrastructure, but in building systems that remain functional, accountable and community-owned. As the Mission enters its next phase, continued focus on sustainability, water quality, local institutional capacity and citizen participation will be critical to ensuring that safe drinking water remains available to every rural household, every day.

This journey reflects the broader transition envisioned under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, where rural drinking water programmes are increasingly measured not by assets created, but by the quality and reliability of services delivered to communities.



Figure 37: Water quality testing training | Source: DWSM Haveri

Where Every Household Matters: Jal Jeevan Mission Reaches the Darlong Community in Unakoti

- **Megha Jain,** District Magistrate & Collector, Unakoti, Tripura



Megha Jain



Figure 38: Groundwater Recharge/ Injection Wells | Source: DWSM Unakoti

There are journeys that are measured in kilometres, and there are journeys that are measured in lives transformed. The story of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Unakoti belongs to the latter. Nestled amidst the verdant hills of Tripura, Unakoti is blessed with rich natural beauty, vibrant tribal traditions and resilient communities. Yet, for many years, the district's scattered habitations and difficult terrain posed formidable challenges in ensuring access to safe drinking water. Women walked long distances carrying water from seasonal streams and springs, children often sacrificed valuable time that could have been spent in school, and several remote villages depended on water tankers during the dry months. These everyday struggles reminded us that development is meaningful only when it reaches the last household.

Today, that narrative is steadily changing. Jal Jeevan Mission has emerged as a catalyst for transformation, taking safe drinking water to the doorsteps of rural families. In Unakoti, 47,809 out of 53,619 rural households have already been provided Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), taking the district to 89.16 per cent coverage. Twenty-five Gram Panchayats have achieved Har Ghar Jal status, while focused efforts continue in DA-JGUA and PM-JANMAN habitations to ensure that every eligible household is covered.

The transformation is not merely about infrastructure; it is about creating a sustainable ecosystem for water security. Source sustainability has therefore remained central to our strategy. Groundwater recharge through injection wells, seasonal assessment of drinking water sources, catchment protection, water budgeting and convergence with programmes such as MGNREGS, the Fifteenth Finance Commission and SBM(G) Phase-II are strengthening long-term water availability. Every intervention is guided by the belief that safe drinking water should remain available not only today but also for future generations.

One of the district's most inspiring examples is the Kaligiri Surface Water Supply Scheme in Gournagar Block. Earlier, villages such as Kaligiri, Sertlang, Muraobari, Noabari and Deoracherra depended on seasonal streams, RCC wells and water tankers. Scientific reconnaissance, hydrographic surveys and community consultations helped identify a perennial surface water source, which was developed into a sustainable drinking water scheme. Today, the project provides safe and



Figure 39: Kaligiri water supply project | Source: DWSM Unakoti

adequate piped drinking water to 295 households along with six schools and six Anganwadi Centres. More importantly, it has reduced the burden on women, eliminated dependence on water tankers and contributed to healthier communities.

This journey has touched the lives of several tribal communities across the district, including the Darlongs, one of Tripura's smallest tribal communities belonging to the Kuki-Chin group. Believed to have migrated from the Arakan region of present-day Myanmar, the Darlongs were officially recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in 2022. Numbering around 8,000 across Tripura, they are primarily settled in the hilly and forested villages of Unakoti, Dhalai and North Tripura. The community is admired for its rich folk music, traditional handloom weaving and jhum cultivation, while the Darlongs of Unakoti are particularly known for their exceptionally high literacy, especially among women. Reliable access to safe drinking water has become an important enabler of healthier lives, improved livelihoods and greater opportunities for education, while allowing the community to preserve its rich cultural heritage.

For the Darlong community and other remote habitations, Jal Jeevan Mission has become much more than an infrastructure programme. Access to safe drinking water at the household level has reduced the burden of fetching water, improved hygiene and health, and created opportunities for women to devote more time to weaving, household enterprises and community activities. Children now have more time for education instead of spending hours collecting water, strengthening both human development and the preservation of the community's rich cultural heritage.

The true strength of Jal Jeevan Mission lies in community ownership. Through Village Water and Sanitation Committees, Jal Seva Aankalan, Jal Arpan Diwas, IEC campaigns and women-led Field Test Kit training, local communities have become active partners in managing their drinking water systems. This shift from infrastructure creation to service delivery is creating a culture of accountability, ensuring that every household receives safe, regular and adequate drinking water.

As District Magistrate, I have witnessed how access to drinking water has become a powerful instrument of social change. A household tap connection is not merely an engineering achievement; it represents dignity for women, improved health for children, greater educa-

tional opportunities and renewed confidence among communities living in the remotest corners of the district. It is deeply satisfying to see development reaching communities that were once constrained by geography.

As Unakoti moves towards achieving 100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connection coverage by March 2028, our commitment remains unwavering. The journey ahead is not only about completing the remaining connections but about ensuring reliable, sustainable and community-owned water services. Every drop of safe drinking water strengthens public health, empowers families and builds a more resilient future. This is the true spirit of Jal Jeevan Mission—a mission where every household matters, every community participates, and every life touched by safe drinking water becomes a story of hope and progress.

- Copy edited by Lopamudra Panda, NPMU-NJJM



Figure 40: Jal Seva Aankalan at Krishnanagar G.P | Source: DWSM Unakoti



Figure 41: Awareness program at school | Source: DWSM Unakoti

Reviving Rural Water Security in Dumka through Convergence: A Story of Sustainable Change

- **Abhijeet Sinha,** Deputy Commissioner, Dumka, Jharkhand

A Convergence-Led Model for Transforming Rural Drinking Water Systems



Abhijeet Sinha

Introduction

Dumka district of Jharkhand, characterized by its difficult terrain, scattered tribal habitations and remote villages, has historically faced severe challenges in ensuring safe and reliable drinking water. Before the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), less than eight percent of rural households had Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). Hundreds of piped water supply schemes and thousands of hand pumps had become defunct due to inadequate maintenance, financial constraints, lack of institutional ownership, and weak community participation.

Recognizing that sustainable water security could not be achieved by infrastructure creation alone, Dumka District Administration adopted an innovative **Convergence-Led Participatory Model**. The model integrated financial resources, institutional mechanisms, technical expertise and community ownership to restore drinking water infrastructure and ensure long-term sustainability. This convergence approach has emerged as one of the district's most successful governance initiatives.

Financial Convergence: The Backbone of Sustainable Water Supply

One of the strongest features of the Dumka model is the convergence of multiple funding sources instead of depending solely on Jal Jeevan Mission allocations.

The district successfully mobilized resources from:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT)
- Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants
- Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)
- Panchayat Untied Funds
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Community User Charges

This financial convergence enabled the district to repair non-functional water supply schemes, restore damaged infrastructure, procure maintenance materials and establish a sustainable operation and maintenance system across rural areas.

Among these funding sources, **District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT)** played a particularly significant role. DMFT resources were strategically utilized for restoring critical water supply schemes in villages where immediate repair was necessary but departmental funds were insufficient. Instead of allowing important assets to remain non-functional, the district administration leveraged DMFT support to ensure uninterrupted drinking water services.

This convergence of DMFT with Jal Jeevan Mission demonstrates how different government schemes can complement each other to maximize public benefit while ensuring timely service delivery.

Asansol: A Model Example of DMFT Convergence

The village of **Asansol** presents one of the most compelling examples of convergence-driven governance.

A Multi Village Rural Water Supply Scheme (MRWSS) had earlier been established at a cost of approximately **₹3.09 lakh**, providing safe drinking water to around **40 families comprising nearly 195 villagers**. However,

due to technical failures, the scheme eventually became non-functional. The village once again depended on distant and unsafe water sources, creating hardship especially for women, children and elderly residents.

Normally, restoration would have been delayed because of the shortage of departmental maintenance funds.

Instead, the District Administration adopted a convergence strategy.

Through **District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT)** funding, immediate repair works were undertaken. Within a short period, the entire water supply system became operational once again, restoring regular access to safe drinking water for all beneficiary families.

Today, all forty beneficiary households receive clean drinking water regularly.

The successful restoration has:

- Eliminated dependence on unsafe water sources.
- Reduced the burden on women who previously travelled long distances to fetch water.
- Improved sanitation and public health.
- Enhanced overall quality of life.

The Asansol experience clearly demonstrates that **DMFT is not merely a funding source but a catalyst for restoring essential public infrastructure through convergence-based governance.**

Extending Water Security to Vulnerable Tribal Communities

While DMFT enabled restoration of existing infrastructure, Jal Jeevan Mission simultaneously expanded access to safe drinking water in





Figure 42-43: Water supply through District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) | Source: DDWS Dumka



Figure 44: A female beneficiary fetching water from her tap | Source: DDWS Dumka

remote Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations.

Villages such as **Bhaluksundhia** and **Karakatta** illustrate how infrastructure development combined with community participation can transform rural lives.

Before implementation, residents relied on distant water sources or a single hand pump. Women spent several hours every day collecting water, leaving little time for household work, education or livelihood activities. Water quality remained poor, leading to frequent water-borne diseases.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission:

- Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) were provided.
- Elevated water tanks and distribution networks were established.
- Safe drinking water became available directly at households.
- Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) and Jal Sahiyas were trained.
- Community members began collecting user charges for long-term maintenance.
- Water quality testing through Field Test Kits became a regular practice.

Women reported substantial reduction in drudgery, children attended school more regularly and households experienced better hygiene and health conditions.

The convergence of technical implementation, community institutions and local ownership ensured that the infrastructure remained functional well beyond project completion.

The Dumka Model: Convergence Beyond Funding

The Dumka experience demonstrates that convergence is much more than combining financial resources.

The district integrated governance, institutions and community participation into a single implementation framework.

Major institutional innovations included:

- Establishment of an Integrated Water Control Room for complaint registration.
- Digital tracking and verification of repairs.
- Continuous monitoring by district officials.
- Coordination among engineers, block administration and Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Capacity building of Village Water and Sanitation Committees and Jal Sahiyas.
- Creation of village-level maintenance systems supported through user charges.

The results have been remarkable:

- **652 out of 737** defunct rural water supply schemes restored.
- **8,225 out of 9,112** non-functional hand pumps repaired.
- **92%** of complaints resolved within 48 hours.
- **100%** complaint resolution within 72 hours.
- More than **1.49 lakh Functional Household Tap Connections** completed across the district.
- Safe drinking water extended to remote tribal habitations through sustained community participation.



Figure 45: A female beneficiary with her child fetching water from her tap | Source: DDWS Dumka

Conclusion

The Dumka Convergence Model demonstrates that sustainable rural water security cannot be achieved through a single programme acting in isolation.

The **convergence of Jal Jeevan Mission with District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT), Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants, PHED resources, Panchayat funds, CSR initiatives and community contributions** has created a resilient and sustainable rural water management system.

Among these partnerships, **DMFT convergence stands out as a transformative intervention**, enabling rapid restoration of critical drinking water schemes in financially constrained situations, as demonstrated by the successful revival of the Asansol MRWSS.

Combined with strong governance, institutional accountability and community ownership, this convergence-led approach has transformed drinking water service delivery across Dumka. The model offers a practical and scalable framework for other districts seeking to strengthen rural water security while ensuring that no community-especially remote tribal habitations-is left behind.





Figure 46-47: Involvement of Jal Sahiyas | Source: DDWS Dumka

From Har Ghar Jal coverage to climate-resilient rural water service in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh

- **Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma,** Deputy Commissioner, Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh



Traditional high-altitude water bodies are part of Kinnaur's wider strategy for source protection, recharge and long-term water security



- Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma

As a predominantly mountainous district located in the tribal belt of Himachal Pradesh, Kinnaur presents a unique set of challenges for rural drinking water service delivery. While achieving 100% Har Ghar Jal coverage has been an important milestone, our focus today is on ensuring that these services remain reliable, sustainable and resilient in the face of difficult terrain, harsh winters and climate-related vulnerabilities.

At the 10th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad held on 14 July 2026, Kinnaur was privileged to share its experience under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 with districts and officials from across the country. The discussion provided an opportunity not only to present achievements but also to reflect on the practical challenges involved in sustaining water supply systems in remote Himalayan regions. Our experience demonstrates that the

Kinnaur's Case at The National Forum

Kinnaur is 100% Har Ghar Jal coverage across 210 villages, along with source augmentation, infrastructure modernisation, pond rejuvenation, snow-water harvesting, digital monitoring and women-led water quality testing.

The significance lies in the combination: universal access backed by measures intended to keep the service functional.

22,763	210	7,360	410
Rural Households	Villages Reported HGJ	FHTCs Added Under JJM	Water-Supply Schemes

success of Jal Jeevan Mission cannot be measured solely by the number of tap connections provided. In districts such as Kinnaur, long-term success depends equally on source sustainability, community participation, operation and maintenance systems, water quality assurance and the resilience of infrastructure to extreme weather conditions.

The transition to Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 is therefore particularly relevant for Kinnaur. The Mission's emphasis on assured service delivery, village-level ownership, digital asset management and sustainable water sources closely aligns with the priorities we have been pursuing across the district.

A complete network at a glance

Kinnaur serves 22,763 rural households spread across 210 villages. At the launch of JJM, 15,403 households already had Functional Household Tap Connections; further 7,360 connections were provided under the Mission. All 210 villages have been reported as Har Ghar Jal, and Jal Seva Aanklan has been completed across the district.

In Kinnaur, sustainability is tested not only by coverage, but by winter, terrain and disaster

Coverage and certification, however, are not the same. As on 8 July 2026, 165 of the 210 villages and 53 of the 72 Gram Panchayats had completed Har Ghar Jal certification. This distinction is important because the Ministry specifically asked districts to accelerate certification and convert physical coverage into verified, community-owned service delivery.

Why Kinnaur's achievement matters

The district's habitations lie roughly between 1,600 and 3,400 metres. Long pipeline alignments, scattered settlements and steep terrain increase the cost and difficulty of both construction and maintenance. About 90% of schemes are gravity-based and most sources are glacier-fed rivulets, leaving supply vulnerable to declining discharge, siltation and seasonal change.

Winters can bring snowfall of up to five feet and freezing of gravity mains. Cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides repeatedly damage intakes and pipelines. Ageing networks, road-



Figure 48: New and strengthened storage capacity has been central to improving reliability | Source: DWSM Kinnaur



Figure 49: Women-led field testing has made water-quality surveillance a community responsibility | Source: DWSM Kinnaur

work damage, shortage of trained field staff and delays in land or inter-departmental clearances add to the operational burden.

Against this background, the district's 100% reported coverage is a substantial achievement. The real administrative test now is whether the system can provide water consistently through winter, after natural disasters and during routine periods of repair and maintenance.

What Kinnaur placed before the Ministry

The presentation highlighted the shift from infrastructure creation to reliable service delivery. Before augmentation under JJM, several water-supply schemes faced inadequate storage, leakages in gravity mains and distribution networks, declining source discharge and ageing conveyance systems. The measures taken included construction of storage tanks, connectivity with additional sources, source-sustainability works, and repair and strengthening of gravity mains and distribution lines.

Water quality: from laboratory to village

Kinnaur reported bacteriological and chemical testing under the JJM water-quality framework across all 210 villages, 313 schools and 236 Anganwadi Centres. Intensive testing is also carried out during and after heavy rains and floods, while annual sanitary surveys are conducted jointly by Jal Shakti field staff and Village Water and Sanitation Committee members.

These efforts are supported by Field Testing Kit-based testing by trained women, laboratory verification, source-protection activities, and regular cleaning of storage tanks and water-supply premises.

Community institutions and digital visibility

Through Jal Mahotsav 2026, held from 12 to 22 March, activities were conducted in seven Gram Panchayats across all three blocks. Jal Arpan, Jal Sankalp, water-asset and source mapping, cleanliness drives, tank cleaning, water-quality testing and training of VWSCs, SHGs and Nal Jal Mitras were used to build local participation around the operation of water systems.

The district also presented its use of the Sujalam Bharat Digital Registry and GIS-based monitoring. The Peyjal Samvad submission recorded 191 Sujalam Bharat IDs covering 406 schemes, along with 126 Sujal Gaon IDs. Regular DWSM reviews were highlighted as the administrative mechanism for bringing engineering, community mobilisation and field monitoring together.

The unfinished agenda was also placed on record

The Ministry emphasized that Jal Jeevan Mission has moved beyond infrastructure creation to ensuring reliable and sustainable service delivery, with Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees assuming greater responsibility for the operation, maintenance and ownership of water-supply assets. In this context, the district placed before the Ministry two matters requiring further consideration.

The first related to five winter-resilient water-supply schemes for Chhitkul, Sangla, Chango, Pooh and Nako, estimated at ₹42.50 crore. Four schemes had received administrative approval, while the Sangla source-strengthening proposal was awaiting approval. The district requested that support for these proposals may be considered, subject to availability of



Figure 50: Winter operation is the defining service-delivery challenge in high-altitude Kinnaur | Source: DWSM Kinnaur

funds, in view of the severe winter conditions and the strategic importance of these border and Vibrant Village areas.

The second matter concerned 23 ongoing or closure-stage schemes with a total estimated cost of ₹40.30 crore, against which expenditure of ₹26.40 crore had been incurred. A further ₹9.61 crore was reported as required for pending liabilities and balance works. The district requested consideration of timely financial closure, wherever feasible, so that completed and substantially completed schemes could be formally transferred to regular operation and maintenance.

The Ministry's emphasis: service, ownership and evidence

The Ministry's message at the Samvad was clear: JJM has entered a phase in which infrastructure must translate into assured and sustainable service through Jan Bhagidari. States and districts were asked to accelerate Har Ghar Jal certification and institutionalise Jal Arpan as an annual Gram Panchayat-led event.

The operation and maintenance of rural water-supply assets must increasingly be anchored in Gram Panchayats and VWSCs. At the same time, every asset, from source to tap, is to be digitally mapped through the Sujalam Bharat Digital Registry, integrated with PM Gati Shakti, and geo-tagged for better planning, monitoring and preventive maintenance.

The National Jal Jeevan Mission further emphasised measurable outcomes, source sustainability, community participation, technology-driven monitoring, inter-departmental convergence, regular district reviews and innovation. The role of Finance Commission grants for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was also highlighted.

The next measure of success

The discussion reflected the broader direction of JJM 2.0: moving from household connections to reliable service delivery, from departmental management to greater responsibility of Gram Panchayats and VWSCs, and from periodic reporting to geo-tagged and regularly reviewed systems.

For Kinnaur, the next phase will focus on completing Har Ghar Jal certification, strengthening local arrangements for operation and maintenance, completing source-to-tap asset mapping, improving winter resilience in vulnerable areas, and settling pending liabilities so that completed schemes can move into regular operation and maintenance.

Beyond Concrete and Pipes: The Behavioral Imperative for India's Infrastructure under JJM

- **Rishita Kumari**, Assistant Director, DDWS



Rishita Kumari

For decades, the standard development discourse in India has been dominated by "Supply-Side" logic: the belief that creating physical assets would automatically translate into improved quality of life. As India experiences a historic surge in capital expenditure, the limitations of this "build-it-and-they-will-come" philosophy are becoming evident. While the Government of India has achieved near-universal coverage in physical access, the analytical challenge for policy-making now shifts from infrastructure creation to sustained service delivery and behavioral outcomes.

The success of flagship initiatives like the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) demonstrates a paradigm shift in governance. As of early 2026, JJM has provided tap water connections to over 15.77 crore rural households, covering approximately 81.5% of the population. Similarly, SBM-Grameen



Figure 51: PRA exercise | Source: NJJM

achieved the historic milestone of 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2019. However, the presence of a "hard resource", be it a latrine or a tap, is a necessary but not sufficient condition for welfare. The binding constraint to development is often not the lack of physical capital, but the persistence of deep-rooted habits and social norms that inhibit the optimal use of that capital.

The theoretical underpinnings for this are found in behavioral economics, which challenges the model of *homo-economicus*. In reality, human decision-making is often driven by "System 1" thinking, i.e., fast, automatic, and intuitive, rather than the slow, analytical "System 2". For instance, a 2014 survey in North India revealed that nearly 40% of households with a functional latrine had at least one member who continued to defecate in the open, often because the practice was perceived as more "pleasurable" or "convenient". This highlights the "knowledge-action gap", where awareness does not always translate into action.

To bridge this gap, many international experiences highlights the potential of "nudges"-low-cost interventions that modify the choice architecture without being coercive. In Kenya, the simple placement of free chlorine dispensers at water sources made purification easy and salient, resulting in a 50% increase in treatment rates. In Nepal, the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project achieved hygiene breakthroughs by specifically targeting women and community elders, recognizing their crucial role in shaping family sanitation norms. Even in urban environments, behavioral insights are yielding high returns. From Brazil's participatory budgeting to Indonesia's village-led infrastructure and Bangladesh's community-managed water systems, evidence shows that involving communities in



Figure 52: Water Supply in School | Source: NJJM

planning, monitoring, and maintenance can improve service delivery, reduce breakdowns, and strengthen accountability.

From a macroeconomic perspective, the "Soft Infrastructure" of institutions and behavioral change serves as a multiplier for physical capital. The marginal effect of infrastructure on economic growth is significantly higher in environments with high institutional quality and administrative transparency. To facilitate this transition from hardware to habits, the mission has introduced celebratory milestones under **JJM 2.0** that turn technical infrastructure into a **Jan Andolan**. Initiatives such as **Jal Mahotsav** celebrate the arrival of clean water as a community festival, while **Jal Arpan** ceremonies formally dedicate water assets to the community. These events act as powerful behavioral nudges, shifting the identity of villagers from passive recipients to active custodians of their own water security.

Hence, the Government's current strategy reflects this maturity. JJM 2.0 now places immense emphasis on community ownership through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (Pani Samitis), where numerous initiatives are being taken. For instance, 24.8 lakh women are being trained as leaders in water quality monitoring.

The leadership shown by various Indian states further illustrates the positive implementation of this community-centric model. In **Jharkhand**, the emergence of **Jal Sahiyas**—women frontline workers—has been a cornerstone of the mission's success at the grassroots. These women are specifically trained to conduct water quality surveillance using Field Test Kits (FTKs) and to mobilize the community around safe water practices. This state-specific model complements the long-standing success of **Gujarat's Pani Samitis**, which empower local committees to plan, implement, and manage their own water utilities, ensuring high functionality and reliable service delivery. By integrating women as primary stakeholders, states are ensuring that the mission goes beyond engineering to address the social determinants of health.

Innovation at the state level also extends to water quality monitoring



Figure 53: Flowing Quality Water From Tap | Source: NJJM

and infrastructure management. **Haryana** has deployed state-of-the-art mobile water quality testing laboratories that travel to remote rural locations to provide on-site testing and instantaneous digital reports, which are crucial for the early detection of contaminants. Similarly, **Punjab** has refurbished its network of laboratories with standardized branding and modern technical features, making them more accessible and trusted by the public. These efforts are reflected in the Functionality Assessment 2024, which found that 76% of households across the country are now receiving water that meets prescribed quality standards, with states like Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Uttarakhand emerging as top performers in water quality.

Moreover, sustainability is further reinforced through the management of "greywater" under campaigns like **Sujlam 2.0**. States are now using convergence models with MGNREGA to build community soak pits and stabilization ponds, ensuring that wastewater is treated and reused rather than becoming a health hazard. This holistic approach is supported by **Digital Public Infrastructure**, such as the **Sujalam Bharat Database**, which shifts the focus from "CAPEX-centric" records of pipes laid to real-time service visibility, ensuring every functional tap is actually delivering quality water. This also institutionalizes the "bottom-up" approach mandated by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment

Together, these examples demonstrate that infrastructure investments yield greater and more durable economic returns when complemented by institutionalized community participation, local ownership, and accountable governance. A randomized controlled trial in Chennai tested the "Shut the Tap" nudge, utilizing reminder stickers and social consumption comparisons. This resulted in a 10.3% water saving per household, outperforming generic awareness campaigns by nearly 470%. Such findings suggest that "non-pecuniary" interventions, appealing to social norms and identity, are far more effective than mere price signals, which are often politically sensitive or administratively complex in developing nations.

In conclusion, infrastructure alone cannot change lives because development is fundamentally a human process, not a mechanical one. The next phase of India's growth story depends on our ability to integrate the "Hard" and the "Soft". By combining massive physical outlays with sophisticated behavioral "nudges" and decentralized governance, India is not just building pipes and toilets; it is building a "Sujalam Bharat" where the sustainability of services is anchored in the enlightened habits of its citizens.

Reviews & Meetings

Review on JJM by Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti

On 14 July 2026, Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil reviewed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 in New Delhi and directed officials to expedite the completion of pending works, ensure timely delivery of safe and regular tap water to every rural household, and maintain the highest standards of quality and service delivery. Guided by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said that the Mission continues to drive transformative change across rural India by improving access to safe drinking water and enhancing the quality of life for millions of families so works must be expedited while maintaining the quality.



Figure 54: Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti reviewing works of the mission | Source: NJJM

Monthly Review Meeting with States/UTs

Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), chaired a comprehensive virtual review meeting with State Secretaries, Mission Directors, Engineers-in-Chief and senior officials of States/UTs on 7th July 2026 to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 and discuss key priorities for ensuring sustainable rural drinking water services across the country. The meeting was attended by Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), along with senior officials of DDWS, NJJM and NPMUs.

In his opening remark, Secretary, DDWS emphasized that JJM 2.0 marks a strategic transition from infrastructure creation to sustainable service delivery and long-term management of rural drinking water systems. He underlined that while significant infrastructure has been created under JJM, the focus now must be on ensuring regular water supply, functionality of assets, source sustainability, financial sustainability and strong community-led governance. He stressed the need for States/UTs to establish robust O&M systems, strengthen Gram Panchayat ownership of assets and ensure effective utilisation of resources for reliable drinking water service delivery.

Highlighting the importance of digital governance under JJM 2.0, Shri Meena urged States to accelerate the adoption and usage of digital platforms such as Sujalam Bharat, Sujal Gaon IDs and Digital Jal IDs to achieve end-to-end visibility of every drinking water supply system, from source to household. He noted that accurate scheme data, geo-tagging of assets, mapping of service areas and real-time monitoring would play a critical role



Figure 55: Secretary, DDWS chairing the review meeting | Source: NJJM

in improving accountability, transparency and evidence-based decision-making. States were encouraged to strengthen their data management systems and leverage digital tools for monitoring performance and service delivery outcomes.

Reviewing the financial architecture under JJM 2.0, the Secretary informed States that the scheme-wise payment module for Single Village Schemes has been operationalised and several States have already started processing payments through the new system. Similarly, reimbursement of eligible expenditure for Multi Village Schemes has commenced. Emphasising the importance of timely financial reporting and accurate scheme-level data entry, he urged all States to complete pending actions related to payment processing, reimbursement mechanisms and digital integration. He reiterated that the objective of the Mission is not merely expenditure of funds but ensuring that every rupee invested translates into visible and measurable improvements in rural drinking water service delivery.

He further highlighted that commissioning and handing over of completed schemes should be undertaken strictly



Figure 56: SVirtual presents by State/UTs in the review meeting | Source: NJJM

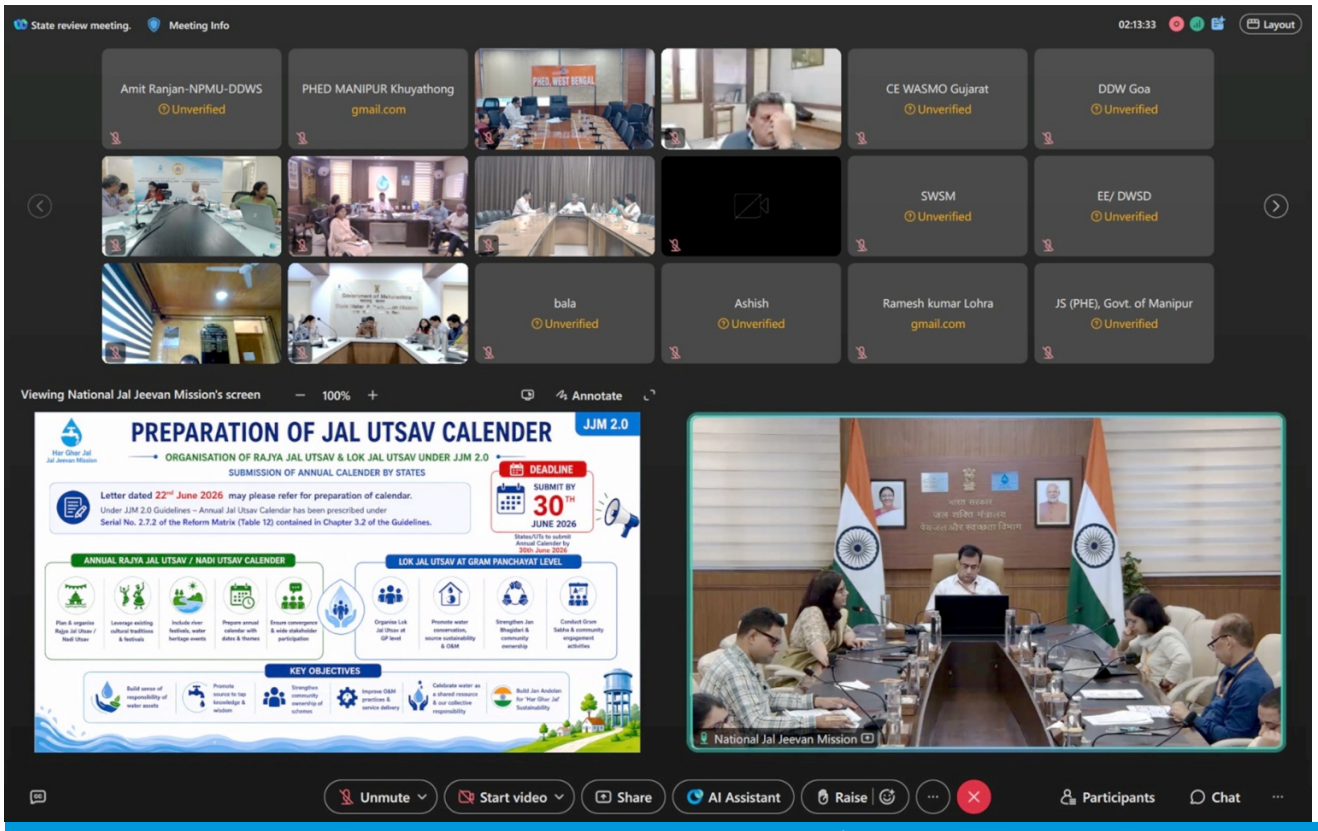


Figure 57: Address by AS&MD, NJJM in the review meeting | Source: NJJM

in accordance with the Jal Arpan Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). He emphasized that Jal Arpan is not merely a ceremonial event but an important step in transferring ownership of water supply systems to local communities. Active participation of Gram Panchayats, Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), community members and public representatives is essential for fostering community ownership, accountability and long-term sustainability of the assets created under the Mission.

A key area of discussion during the meeting was the need to strengthen source sustainability and water security measures in view of the possibility of El Niño conditions and below-normal rainfall during the year. Reiterating Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, the Secretary urged States and UTs to intensify efforts towards water conservation, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, source protection and water budgeting. He stressed that source sustainability must become an integral part of rural drinking water planning to ensure uninterrupted supply and resilience against climate variability.

To further strengthen national efforts in these areas, Shri Meena announced that the Department would organise a Departmental Summit on Water during August 2026. The summit will bring together State Ministers, senior government officials, industry experts, development partners and practitioners to deliberate on two priority themes—Source Sustainability of Drinking Water Systems and Operation & Maintenance of Rural Water Supply Infrastructure. States were advised to notify comprehensive O&M Policies and constitute Source Sustainability Committees in line with JJM 2.0 provisions before the summit. The deliberations are expected to culminate in a coordinated action plan for strengthening sustainability and service delivery across rural India.

Addressing the meeting, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD, reviewed the progress of implementation across States and directed officials to accelerate completion, commissioning and handover of schemes for effective operationalisation of JJM 2.0. He emphasized priority actions relating to Jal Seva Aankalan, Har Ghar Jal Certification, Jal Arpan, preparation of Jal Utsav Calendar, District Improvement Plans (DIPs) and State Improvement Plans (SIPs), regular meetings of District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs), and strengthening community ownership mechanisms. He also stressed timely achievement of reform milestones linked to JJM 2.0, including notification of comprehensive O&M

policies, establishment of source sustainability mechanisms, utilisation of 16th Finance Commission tied grants, capacity building initiatives, Sujalam Shakti deployment, water quality surveillance and timely finalisation of Comprehensive Infrastructure Renewal Plans (CIRPs).

The meeting also reviewed progress in coverage of vulnerable and tribal habitations under PM JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA). States/UTs were urged to submit proposals for uncovered habitations within the revised timelines and ensure that no eligible tribal settlement is left behind. Special emphasis was placed on strengthening service delivery in remote and difficult areas through improved planning, digital monitoring and community participation.

Concluding the meeting, the Secretary reiterated that the success of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 would be measured not only by the creation of infrastructure but by the sustainability, reliability and quality of drinking water services provided to rural households. He called upon States and UTs to work collectively towards strengthening institutions, empowering communities, leveraging digital technologies and ensuring that every village has the capacity and resources to sustainably manage its water supply systems for generations to come.

Review Meeting on PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA Villages

On **1st July 2026**, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), chaired a virtual review meeting with States and Union Territories to assess progress in providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in villages identified under **PM-JANMAN** and **DA-JGUA**. The review was aimed at ensuring safe and adequate drinking water access to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and other tribal communities across the country.

The meeting reviewed the status of FHTC coverage in identified villages, harmonisation of village-level data, issues relating to habitations without Public Water Systems (PWS), planning for uncovered PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA villages, and progress towards *Har Ghar Jal* certification. Detailed deliberations were held on implementation challenges, infrastructure gaps and measures required to accelerate service delivery in remote and geographically challenging tribal areas.

During the review, Shri Soan emphasized that achieving universal tap water coverage in all eligible tribal habitations must remain a priority for States and Union Territories. He called for strengthened planning, closer convergence among departments, timely preparation of project proposals and rigorous monitoring of implementation. Stress was also laid on the expeditious completion of ongoing works and accurate data reporting to support evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions.

The meeting further underscored the need to ensure that no eligible household is left behind in the Mission's effort to provide safe drinking water services. Special emphasis was placed on addressing last-mile connectivity challenges and accelerating infrastructure development in difficult and underserved tribal regions.

The review was attended by the Joint Secretary, NJJM, senior officials of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, representatives from the Ministry of Tribal



Figure 58: Address by AS&MD, NJJM in the review meeting | Source: NJJM

Affairs, officials from State Tribal Affairs Departments, and members of State and UT Jal Jeevan Mission teams.

The deliberations reaffirmed the Government's commitment to inclusive and equitable drinking water service delivery and highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to extend the benefits of Jal Jeevan Mission to the most remote and vulnerable tribal communities across the country.

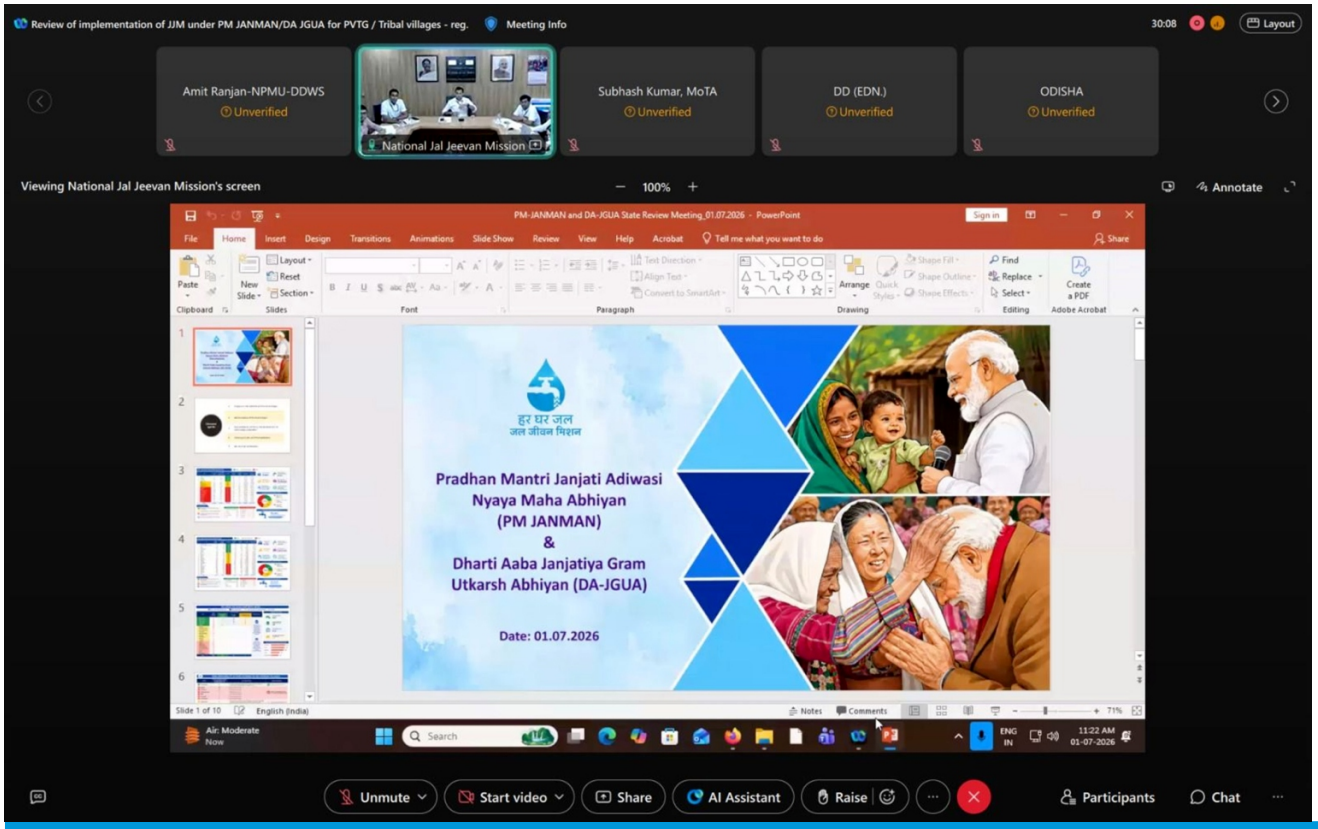


Figure 59: Presentation on PM JANMAN during the review by NJJM | Source: NJJM

Orientation of States on 16th Finance Commission (FC-XVI) tied grant for Water Management and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), chaired a virtual orientation session with States and Union Territories on 15 July 2026 to discuss the effective utilization of the 16th Finance Commission (FC-XVI) tied grants earmarked for Water Management and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. The session brought together senior officials from Public Health Engineering, Rural Water Supply, Panchayati Raj, and Rural Development Departments to strengthen planning and implementation mechanisms for sustainable rural service delivery.

Addressing the participants, AS&MD emphasized the critical role of Finance Commission grants in achieving the objectives of Har Ghar Jal and sustaining sanitation outcomes in rural areas. He urged States and UTs to expedite the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), strengthen planning and monitoring systems at the Rural Local Body (RLB) level, and promote transparent, accountable, and participatory governance. He highlighted that effective planning and timely utilization of funds are essential to maximize the impact of FC-XVI grants and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

The discussions focused on timely finalization of GPDPs by 15 August 2026, issuance of State-level advisories, resource mapping, and convergence of FC-XVI grants with Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G). Participants also deliberated on strategies for enhancing community ownership, ensuring



Figure 60: Address by AS&MD, NJJM | Source: NJJM

financial sustainability of assets, and strengthening local institutions for long-term service delivery. States were encouraged to make effective use of the GPDP portal for planning, monitoring, and expenditure tracking while ensuring prudent utilization of administrative expenditures and timely absorption of the remaining 15th Finance Commission funds.

During the session, Smt. Swati Meena Naik, JS, NJJM, elaborated on key provisions relating to FC-XVI fund utilization and highlighted the strategic importance of these grants in strengthening rural water supply and sanitation systems. Area Officers of Jal Jeevan Mission and SBM-G provided detailed guidance on permissible and non-permissible activities, enabling States and local bodies to undertake informed planning and optimize resource utilization. The meeting was attended by JS&MD-SBM-G, Joint Secretaries of NJJM, Directors and senior officers of DDWS, representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and senior State officials from JJM, SBM-G, Panchayati Raj, and Rural Development Departments. The session served as an important platform for aligning priorities and reinforcing a coordinated approach towards sustainable rural water and sanitation services across the country.



Figure 61: Presentation on planning on 16th FC tied grant | Source: NJJM

Visits

Visit of AS & MD, NJJM to Jammu & Kashmir

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), visited Jammu & Kashmir from 2-5 July 2026 to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and assess sanitation and waste management arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. During his visit, he chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Srinagar with senior officials of the Jal Shakti Department to evaluate the implementation of JJM 2.0, progress of Har Ghar Jal certification, creation of Sujalam Bharat IDs, and the status of ongoing water supply schemes across the Union Territory.

During the review, AS&MD emphasized the timely completion of pending tap water connections, accelerated execution of retrofitting and Single Village Schemes, and adherence to JJM 2.0 service delivery standards. He directed officials to prioritize critical expenditures, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and ensure regular District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) meetings for effective programme implementation.

Following the review meeting, he visited the **Gagangeer Water Supply Scheme** in **Ganderbal district**, developed under Jal Jeevan Mission at an estimated cost of ₹140.19 lakh. The scheme, drawing water from a local nallah near the Z-Morh Tunnel, has significantly improved both the quality and quantity of drinking water available to residents. Serving over 2,700 beneficiaries, the scheme has enabled village Gagangeer to achieve Har Ghar Jal certification. During interactions, villagers expressed satisfaction with the regular water supply and improved quality of life resulting from reliable tap water access.

The AS&MD also interacted with community members and women trained in Field Test Kits (FTKs) who are actively supporting village-level water quality surveillance. Appreciating the community's involvement in maintaining drinking water services, he encouraged villagers to adopt water conservation practices and strengthen ownership of local water assets for long-term sustainability.

As part of the visit, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan reviewed sanitation and solid waste management arrangements at the Baltal axis ahead of the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. He inspected sanitation facilities, waste segregation systems, decentralized composting units, and the solid waste management plant at **Domail Camp**, while appreciating the efforts of sanitation workers and field teams operating under challenging weather and terrain conditions.

At the Baltal Base Camp, he inaugurated the SBM(G) IEC Exhibition, which showcased innovative and environmentally sustainable initiatives including the Swachh Jyoti biogas model, waste-to-art displays, Bartan Banks, cloth bag distribution, QR-code based feedback systems, and awareness materials promoting responsible pilgrim



Figure 62: AS&MD, NJJM charing a review meeting at Srinagar | Source: SWSM J&K

behaviour. The exhibition highlighted the collective efforts being undertaken to achieve the vision of a **"Zero Waste to Landfill" Yatra** through source segregation, recycling, composting and behaviour change communication.

During the visit, he noted that nearly 1.5 lakh jute bags would be distributed among pilgrims to discourage the use of single-use plastic and promote sustainable practices along the yatra route. Stressing the importance of public participation, he called for sustained cleanliness efforts, scientific waste management, and collective responsibility to ensure a clean, green and environmentally sustainable pilgrimage experience.

The visit provided valuable ground-level validation of Jal Jeevan Mission interventions in remote mountainous areas and reaffirmed the importance of community participation, sustainable service delivery, and convergence between drinking water supply and sanitation initiatives in environmentally sensitive regions.



Figure 63: AS&MD, NJJM interacting with beneficiaries during the visit | Source: SWSM J&K

Visit of JS, NJJM to Odisha

Shri D. Senthil Pandian, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, visited Odisha on **6 July 2026** to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission in the State. During the review meeting, he appreciated Odisha's significant achievements in implementing key reforms under JJM, particularly the progress made in Jal Seva Ankalan. He advised the State to expedite critical activities such as the creation of Sujal Gram IDs and geo-tagging of assets to facilitate timely release of further Central assistance.

The review meeting was attended by Shri S. N. Girish, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, PR&DW Department; Shri Vineet Bhardwaj, Mission Director (Drinking Water); Additional Secretary (Drinking Water); Engineer-in-Chief; Chief Engineer; Additional Chief Engineer, RWSS; and other senior officials associated with the drinking water sector.

Later, at **Manijanga Village under Alanda Gram Panchayat, Nimapada Block, Puri district,** Shri Pandian participated in **Jal Arpan Diwas**, marking the commissioning and community handover of the Piped Water Supply (PWS) Scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission. The celebrations commenced with a village walk and ceremonial ribbon-cutting of a household tap by the



Figure 64: JS, NJJM reviewing the progress during the visit | Source: RWSS, Odisha

Sarpanch, followed by the Jal Arpan ceremony, symbolizing community ownership of the newly commissioned water supply system.

As part of the programme, the PWS scheme was formally handed over to the Gram Panchayat, plantation activities were undertaken, and villagers actively participated in the celebrations. Addressing the gathering, Shri Pandian emphasized the importance of safe drinking water, community ownership, and sustainable management of rural water supply infrastructure. He encouraged villagers to play an active role in the operation and maintenance of the scheme to ensure long-term sustainability. The programme concluded with a Water Conservation Pledge, with villagers committing to use water judiciously and take active part in O&M of their water supply system. A proud step towards safe, sustainable & equitable drinking water for every household.



Figure 65: JS, NJJM attending Jal Arpan during the visit | Source: RWSS, Odisha

Visit of JS, NJJM to SPM NIWAS



Figure 66: Meeting to understand the institute's efforts | Source: SPM NIWAS

A joint visit to **S**PM NIWAS, Kolkata, was undertaken by senior officials of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), including Shri Gaurav Masaldan, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor; Shri D. Senthil Pandian, Joint Secretary, National Jal Jeevan Mission; and Shri Ramesh Chand Ahuja, Deputy Secretary & Financial Advisor.

The delegation was welcomed by Shri Priyatu Mandal, Director & Joint Secretary-cum-Head, SPM NIWAS, who led the officials on a tour of the institute's campus and facilities. During the visit, the institute showcased its key initiatives, capacity-building programmes, publications, training activities, and ongoing contributions to the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. The delegation reviewed the institute's efforts in strengthening sector capacities through training, research, innovation, knowledge management and dissemination of best practices. Discussions focused on enhancing outreach and ensuring effective communication of the Government of India's flagship water and sanitation programmes across States and Union Territories.

The visiting officials appreciated the role of SPM NIWAS as a premier national institute supporting the WASH sector and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration in capacity building, knowledge sharing and institutional strengthening to improve field-level implementation and promote sustainable outcomes under Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).



Figure 67: A rural woman with her tap connection
Source: NJJM

Jal Jeevan Mission in Media

Jal Jeevan 2.0: From numbers to water

From the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's most ambitious and the world's largest rural drinking water programme — the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). It aimed to provide tap connections to all 193.5 million rural households by 2024, with a total outlay of ₹3.60 trillion (Central share: ₹2.08 trillion). JJM marked a decisive departure from its predecessors by shifting measurement from habitations to individual households, mandating community ownership [illegible] Pani Samitis, and building [illegible] its design [illegible]

coverage, reported actual functionality rates below half; Haryana's Mewat recorded just 33 per cent potable availability. JJM 2.0 corrects this by introducing defined service delivery standards for regularity, quantity, and quality at every governance level.

The ghost tap problem: The JJM dashboard became a vehicle for inflated reporting. M[illegible] non-existent connection[illegible] case. A [illegible]

Procurement failures: A Comptroller and Auditor General of India audit of Karnataka (2024) found 9,342 single bid contracts, tender premiums of 5 to 61 per cent above estimates, and no tripartite agreements to enforce quality. JJM 2.0 conditions funds disbursement on reform-linked memorandums of under[illegible]ls). Nine states had signed such MoUs [illegible]ay 2026, the 15-day national [illegible]rst tranche, ₹1,561 [illegible]ly after

पाइपलाइन से राहत

जल जीवन मिशन बना ग्रामीणों के जीवन में बदलाव का माध्यम, महिलाओं व बच्चों को मिली बड़ी राहत

हर घर तक पहुंचा स्वच्छ जल, बदली ग्राम राहुद की तस्वीर

नईदुनिया न्यूज खैरागढ़ : कभी पेयजल की समस्या से जूझने वाला विकासखंड खैरागढ़ का ग्राम राहुद आज जल जीवन मिशन की बदौलत स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित पेयजल की उपलब्धता के मामले में एक नई पहचान बना रहा है। घर-घर नल से जल पहुंचने के बाद ग्रामीणों के दैनिक जीवन में उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन देखने को मिल रहा है। विशेष रूप से महिलाओं और बच्चों को पानी लाने की जिम्मेदारी से राहत मिली है, जिससे वे अपना समय अन्य उपयोगी कार्यों में लगा पा रहे हैं।

लोगों से जल संरक्षण में सहभागिता निभाने की अपील

जल जीवन मिशन के माध्यम से ग्राम राहुद में आया परिवर्तन विकास की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। यह योजना न केवल हर घर तक जल पहुंचाने का कार्य कर रही है, बल्कि ग्रामीणों के जीवन को अधिक सुविधाजनक, स्वस्थ और सम्मानजनक बनाने में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही है। लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग ने ग्रामीणों से जल का विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग करने तथा



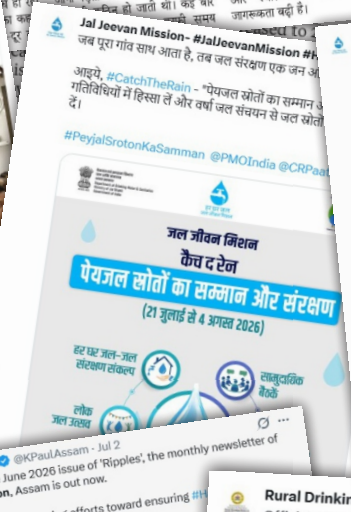


नल के सामने बर्तन रख भरा जा रहा पानी।

केवल पानी की व्यवस्था में ही खर्च हो जाता था। लेकिन अब नल से जल मिलने के कारण यह समस्या लगभग समाप्त हो गई है। जल जीवन मिशन ने केवल पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य ही नहीं किया है, बल्कि ग्रामीणों में जल संरक्षण और जल स्रोतों की सुरक्षा के प्रति जागरूकता भी बढ़ाई है। ग्राम पंचायत एवं ग्रामीणों की सक्रिय भागीदारी से जल आपूर्ति व्यवस्था के संचालन और संधारण को बेहतर बनाया जा रहा है, जिससे योजना का लाभ दीर्घकाल तक मिलता रहे। स्वच्छ पेयजल की उपलब्धता से ग्रामीणों के स्वास्थ्य पर भी सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा है। दूषित पानी से होने वाली बीमारियों की आशंका कम हुई है तथा स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य के प्रति लोगों में जागरूकता बढ़ी है।















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