



Jal Jeevan Mission

Breaking Social Barriers







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Prime Minister
on
Jal Jeevan Mission

I am very proud to tell you that our dream of making available pure drinking water to all the people is getting realized. The solution to several health problems is directly linked to the pure drinking water. It also contributes to that nation's economy.

That's why we have started the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Another crucial aspect of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which is not often discussed, is the focus on water quality testing. Across the country, 2,100 water quality laboratories have been set up. In villages, **25 lakh women** have been trained to test drinking water.

As a result, thousands of villages are now free from the compulsion of consuming contaminated water.

Imagine the significance of this effort in safeguarding children and communities from waterborne diseases.

सी आर पाटील
C R Paatil



सत्यमेव जयते

जल शक्ति मंत्री
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प्रस्तावना

एक जनप्रतिनिधि होने का अर्थ नीतियाँ बनाना और उन्हें लागू करना ही नहीं है, बल्कि यह सुनिश्चित करना भी है कि इनका प्रभाव लोगों के जीवन में वास्तविक बदलाव लाए। खासतौर पर उन लोगों के लिए, जो वर्षों से बुनियादी सुविधाओं से वंचित रहे हैं। पानी और स्वच्छता जीवन की सबसे बुनियादी जरूरतें हैं, और जब हर घर में स्वच्छ, सुरक्षित जल और शौचालय की सुविधा उपलब्ध होती है, तो यह एक गरिमामय जीवन की ओर बढ़ा हुआ कदम होता है।

मैं एक ऐसे भारतीय राज्य से आता हूँ, जहाँ जल संकट और स्वच्छता की चुनौतियों को नज़दीक से देखा और महसूस किया है। लेकिन आज, जब मैं उन्हीं गाँवों में 'हर घर जल' और 'स्वच्छ भारत' के कारण बदले हुए हालात देखता हूँ, तो एक गहरी संतुष्टि का अनुभव करता हूँ।

किसी भी बदलाव को ज़मीन पर उतारने के लिए दृढ़ संकल्प, सामूहिक प्रयास और अटूट प्रतिबद्धता की ज़रूरत होती है। जल जीवन मिशन (JJM) और स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (SBM-G) इसी प्रतिबद्धता के प्रतीक हैं।

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में इन मिशनों ने गति और पैमाने का ऐसा उदाहरण पेश किया है, जो पहले असंभव सा लगता था। 15 करोड़ से अधिक ग्रामीण परिवारों तक नल से जल पहुँच चुका है। 12 करोड़ से अधिक शौचालयों का निर्माण हुआ है, जिससे लोगों का जीवन अधिक स्वस्थ, सुरक्षित और गरिमापूर्ण बना है।

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में जल जीवन मिशन और स्वच्छ भारत मिशन लगातार नई ऊँचाइयों को छू रहे हैं। लेकिन यह सफर आसान नहीं था; रास्ते में कई चुनौतियाँ आईं, लेकिन हर वर्ग के लोगों की भागीदारी और सामूहिक प्रयासों ने इसे संभव बनाया। यह पुस्तक इन कहानियों को समेटे हुए है, जो इन मिशनों के ज़रिए समाज में आए बदलाव को दर्शाती हैं। इसमें गाँव-गाँव से ऐसे अनुभव शामिल हैं, जो आँकड़ों से परे, लेकिन ज़िंदगी में सबसे ज्यादा मायने रखते हैं।

आज, जब हम इस सफलता की ओर देखते हैं, तो यह निश्चित रूप से एक बड़ी उपलब्धि लगती है। लेकिन मैं इसे मंज़िल नहीं, बल्कि यात्रा मानता हूँ। एक ऐसी यात्रा, जो सिर्फ पानी और स्वच्छता तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि देश के करोड़ों ग्रामीणों और हाशिए पर खड़े लोगों को नई संभावनाओं की ओर ले जाने का माध्यम बन रही है।

यह सफर अभी जारी है। जब तक हर घर में जल और हर गाँव में स्वच्छता सुनिश्चित नहीं हो जाती, तब तक हमारा यह संकल्प और प्रयास जारी रहेगा। क्योंकि यह सिर्फ एक योजना की सफलता नहीं, बल्कि एक समाज की सामूहिक जीत है।

जय हिन्द!

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FOREWORD

Access to safe drinking water is a critical determinant of human health and well-being, it is the foundation of life, it is a catalyst for social transformation. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been a groundbreaking initiative, ensuring 'Har Ghar Jal' and bringing dignity, health, and empowerment to millions across the country. More than just infrastructure, JJM is a movement that is reshaping lives, breaking long-standing social barriers, and fostering inclusivity.

This book, *Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking Social Barriers*, captures the profound impact of the mission in communities where access to water was once a distant dream. From PVTGs and minority-dominated villages to the empowerment of women and the specially-abled, the stories within these pages highlight how JJM is bridging divides – be it social, economic, or cultural. The scale of this transformation is unprecedented; for instance, a single Indian state, Uttar Pradesh, has provided tap water connections equivalent to nearly three times the population of Australia, the world's sixth-largest country.


Water is a great equalizer. For generations, marginalized communities faced exclusion, women struggled under the burden of water collection, and the specially-abled remained on the fringes of accessibility. Today, with piped water connections reaching every home, we witness a silent revolution – one where clean water is not just a source of life but a force for equality.

For the specially-abled, water security has meant a life of greater dignity and independence, alleviating physical hardships and enhancing their ability to participate more fully in society. Similarly, the mission has been a catalyst for gender-centric transformation, empowering women to take leadership roles in local governance, decision-making, and water management – breaking centuries-old social and cultural barriers. This compilation is a testament to the resilience of communities and the transformative power of an inclusive development approach. It is a tribute to the collective efforts of policymakers, engineers, frontline workers, and most importantly, the people who have embraced change. As you turn these pages, you will witness firsthand how JJM is not just about water – it is about justice, dignity, and a future where no one is left behind.

As we advance towards universal access to safe drinking water, let us reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind. By working together, we can build a Swachh Sujal Bharat, where clean water serves as a bridge to equality, empowerment, and a better future for all.

Let these stories inspire us to continue striving for a more equitable and inclusive society – one where every drop of water brings hope and change

Jai Hind !


(Veeranna Somanna)



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FOREWORD

Water is not just a basic necessity; but a fundamental right. It is the cornerstone of life and development. In India, where rural communities often face the dual challenges of water scarcity and unreliable access to clean drinking water, the provision of this vital resource is critical for improving the quality of life and ensuring a healthy future for millions. It is against this backdrop that the Government of India launched Jal Jeevan Mission.

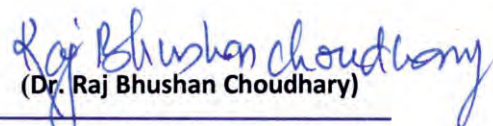
Access to clean tap water is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental right. As a government, we recognize that clean water is the foundation upon which we build better health outcomes, stronger economies, and more resilient communities. However, when the mission was launched, the reality we inherited was far from this vision. Many parts across the country were facing acute water shortages, forcing women and young girls to walk for miles in search of water. Contaminated water sources led to waterborne diseases, and the situation was exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and erratic rainfall patterns. Therefore, the 'Har Ghar Jal' programme conceived not just as a water supply initiative but as a comprehensive solution to these complex challenges.

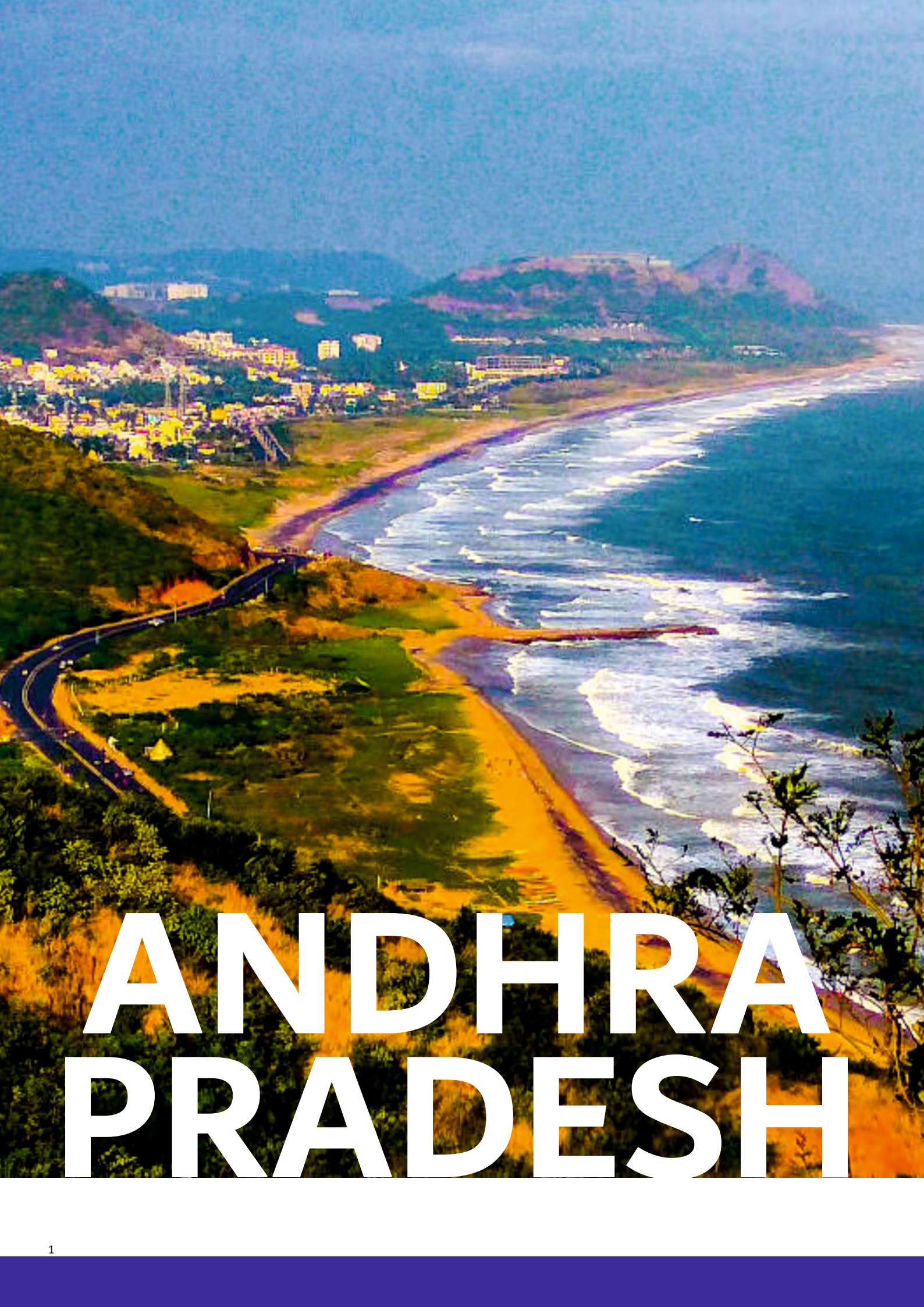
The vision with which Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by the visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is bearing fruits today. When we started the journey in 2019 only 3.23 Crore rural households had access to tap water connections but now over 15 Crore rural households are getting water through taps. By providing piped water to every rural home, school, anganwadi centre, and ashramshala, JJM is transforming the lives of millions, addressing health concerns, improving education outcomes, and empowering communities with the dignity of access to this vital resource.

From its inception, this mission was built on the principles of local empowerment, decentralization, and sustainability. Communities are at the heart of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Today, Har Ghar Jal has become a Jan Andolan.

I would like to commend the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for their initiative in documenting the incredible impact of JJM in breaking social barriers related to gender, health, disabilities, and beyond. This book, *Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking the Social Barriers*, is not just a record of our achievements but a reminder of what is possible when government, communities, and all stakeholders come together with a shared vision.

Jai Hind !


(Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary)



ANDHRA PRADESH



1



Source: P-HED, Andhra Pradesh

Villagers stand proudly beside their newly installed water storage tanks

Clean water, healthy lives, and empowered women

Village: Nittamamidi

District: Alluri Seetharamaraju

State: Andhra Pradesh

Nittamamidi, a tribal hamlet in Gaduthuru Grama Panchayat, G. Madugula Mandal, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, is situated 17 km from the sub-district headquarters (Tehsildar office) G. Madugula and 36 km from the district headquarters, Paderu. The habitation consists of 30 households with a total population of 146. G. Madugula and Paderu serve as the nearest centers for major economic and other activities. The villagers primarily engage in agriculture (Podu Vyavasayam), cultivating turmeric, coffee, tur dal, pepper, and other millets for their livelihoods.

Before the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), women in Nittamamidi had to walk 4 km on rough roads to fetch water from a gravity source. The village faced water quality issues throughout the year, leading to frequent occurrences of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, jaundice, and malaria. This not only affected the health of the villagers but also led to increased medical expenses.

Lack of awareness regarding water supply system management resulted in poor operation and maintenance, further affecting the quality of drinking water. In rural and tribal areas of Alluri Seetharamaraju District, access to potable drinking water was a daunting task, especially for women. Women and girls spent several hours daily fetching water from distant sources, subjecting them to physical exertion, health risks, and limited opportunities for education and economic participation.

Following the launch of JJM, the transformation in Nittamamidi village began in May 2023, when the village started receiving piped drinking water under the Single Village Scheme (SVS) planned under the Mission. Since then, the quality of life, particularly for women, has improved drastically.

Sunkam, a village resident, shared: *"Our village started receiving potable drinking water through piped water connections under the SVS Scheme planned under JJM. Since then, there has been no looking back. The quality of life for villagers, especially women, has significantly improved. Now, women in our village are able to engage in productive activities at home and outside."*

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWS&S) department has been actively implementing support activities in Nittamamidi village. Through these efforts, the community and VWSC have acquired knowledge on JJM, the role of VWSC, and community-led water supply management.

Currently, Nittamamidi has achieved 100% FHTCs, ensuring the supply of 55 LPCD quality water every day. With the interventions introduced under JJM, the community and VWSC have taken ownership of managing their village water infrastructure. To safeguard their FHTCs, all households have locally fenced their tap connections using bamboo wood.

For water quality monitoring and surveillance, VWSC members and village youth have taken an active role in ensuring tank cleaning, periodic chlorination, and regular water quality testing through Field Test Kits (FTKs). This effort is led by five women members and an Engineering Assistant.

As a result, the people of Nittamamidi are now living healthier lives, and the expenditure on healthcare has significantly reduced.



Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

Days of struggle in fetching water prior to Jal Jeevan Mission



Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

A community that once struggled for access to safe drinking water now stands together, empowered by the success of Jal Jeevan Mission in their village





2



Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

A glimpse of daily life in Porlu village, where access to clean water is now ensuring ease of living

No more long walks for water: How JJM transformed Porlu

Village: Porlu

District: Vizianagaram

State: Andhra Pradesh

Nestled deep in the hills of Vizianagaram District, Porlu is a small tribal habitation in Daraparathi Gram Panchayat, S Kota Mandal. Located 16 kilometers beyond six hills from Srungavarapukota Mandal headquarters, the village remained largely disconnected from basic amenities for decades. According to the 2011 Census, Porlu had 25 households and a population of 62, all of whom struggled daily to access safe drinking water.

Due to its hilltop location, the villagers were forced to descend steep terrains to collect water from a sub-river called Sela Yeru, located 2 kilometers away. For years, lack of access to potable water reinforced social inequalities, limiting opportunities for education, livelihoods, and overall well-being. However, with the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), this isolation and hardship came to an end.

Under the scheme, 25 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) were installed, ensuring every household in Porlu had access to clean drinking water. For the first time, villagers no longer had to walk long distances or risk consuming contaminated water. Sanyasi Rao, the Sarpanch of Daraparathi Gram Panchayat, expressed his relief and gratitude, stating:

"Before JJM, we struggled daily to fetch water, facing challenges in every season. Today, we are happy to have access to safe and sufficient water right at our doorstep."

Beyond providing tap water connections, the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWS&S) Department took additional steps to ensure water quality and sustainability:

- Field Test Kits (FTKs) were provided for regular water quality testing.
- The results were uploaded onto the IMIS WQMS Portal, ensuring accountability and transparency.
- The village pump operator was assigned to chlorinate every water filling and clean the storage tank twice a month.
- Registers were maintained to monitor water quality and supply consistency.

These measures eliminated seasonal diseases that had plagued the villagers for years, marking a significant improvement in public health.

With 100% potable water coverage, the Jal Jeevan Mission has transformed life in Porlu, breaking social barriers that once confined the villagers to hardship. Women and children, previously burdened with water collection, now have time for education, economic activities, and community participation.

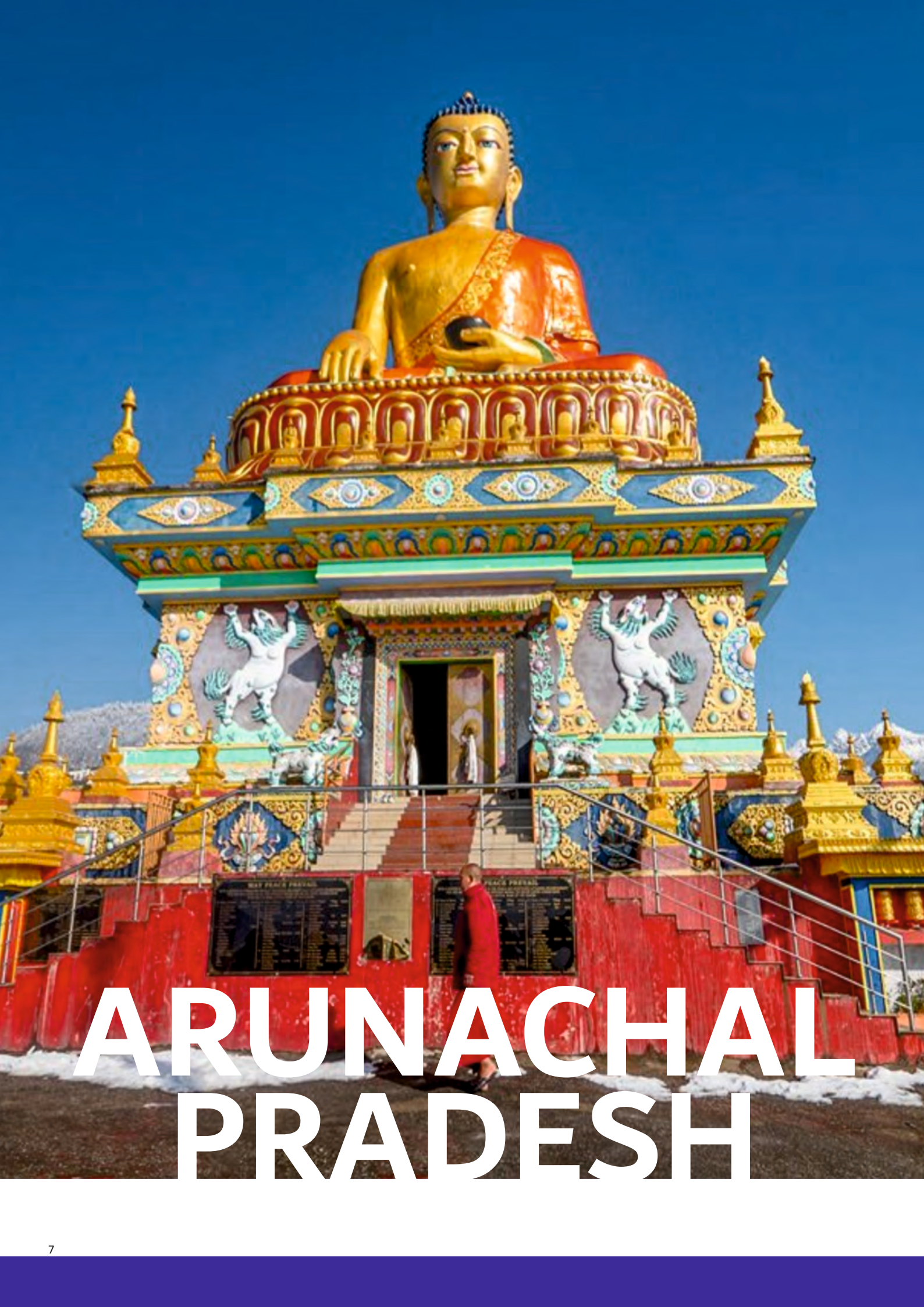
The villagers, once marginalized by geography and lack of resources, now stand empowered, healthier, and more connected to the mainstream. Porlu's journey from struggle to sustainability is a testament to how access to water can dismantle inequalities, uplift communities, and pave the way for inclusive development



Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh

Women of Porlu village celebrate the arrival of clean and safe drinking water, bringing an end to their long and exhausting journeys to fetch water





ARUNACHAL PRADESH



3



Smt. Marjee Naksang conducting water testing with FTK

She leads the flow: Women, Water, Change

Village: Pharge

District: Shi-Yomi

State: Arunachal Pradesh

Nestled in the serene Himalayan landscapes near India's border, Pharge village in Shi-Yomi District, Arunachal Pradesh, has witnessed a quiet yet powerful transformation through Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). At the heart of this transformation is Smt. Majee Naksang, a dedicated Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) Member, whose relentless efforts have shattered gender and cultural barriers in community decision-making.

A homemaker and farmer alongside her husband, Sri Tsering Naksang, Majee's journey in sanitation began with her training in Field Testing Kit (FTK) water testing at the start of JJM. Her curiosity and commitment led her to actively assist the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in exploring sustainable water sources for the village's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and identifying the most feasible location for it.

Her efforts extended beyond her own village – she trained women in nearby villages, ensuring that safe drinking water became a community-led effort. Recognizing her leadership in FTK testing, the department facilitated her exposure visits to District Water Testing Labs in Shi-Yomi and West Siang districts, further strengthening her expertise and influence.

Understanding the vital role of women in water security, Majee became a strong advocate for women's leadership in water governance. She encouraged women to take up voluntary roles in water quality monitoring and conservation efforts. Through her active participation in Gram Sabhas, rallies, and exhibitions, she amplified awareness about water-related issues and the importance of community ownership of JJM assets.

Her leadership in social transformation was not limited to JJM. Even before its implementation, she played a crucial role in the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), leading awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene. Her dedication has helped bridge the gap between traditional societal norms and modern governance, ensuring that women's voices are heard in community decision-making.

Today, Pharge village stands as a model of gender-inclusive governance, where women like Majee Naksang are not just participants but leaders in ensuring sustainable water management and sanitation.

Her words resonate with the spirit of empowerment: "Water is life, and women are its true guardians. When we take charge of ensuring clean and safe water, we protect our families, our future, and our dignity."

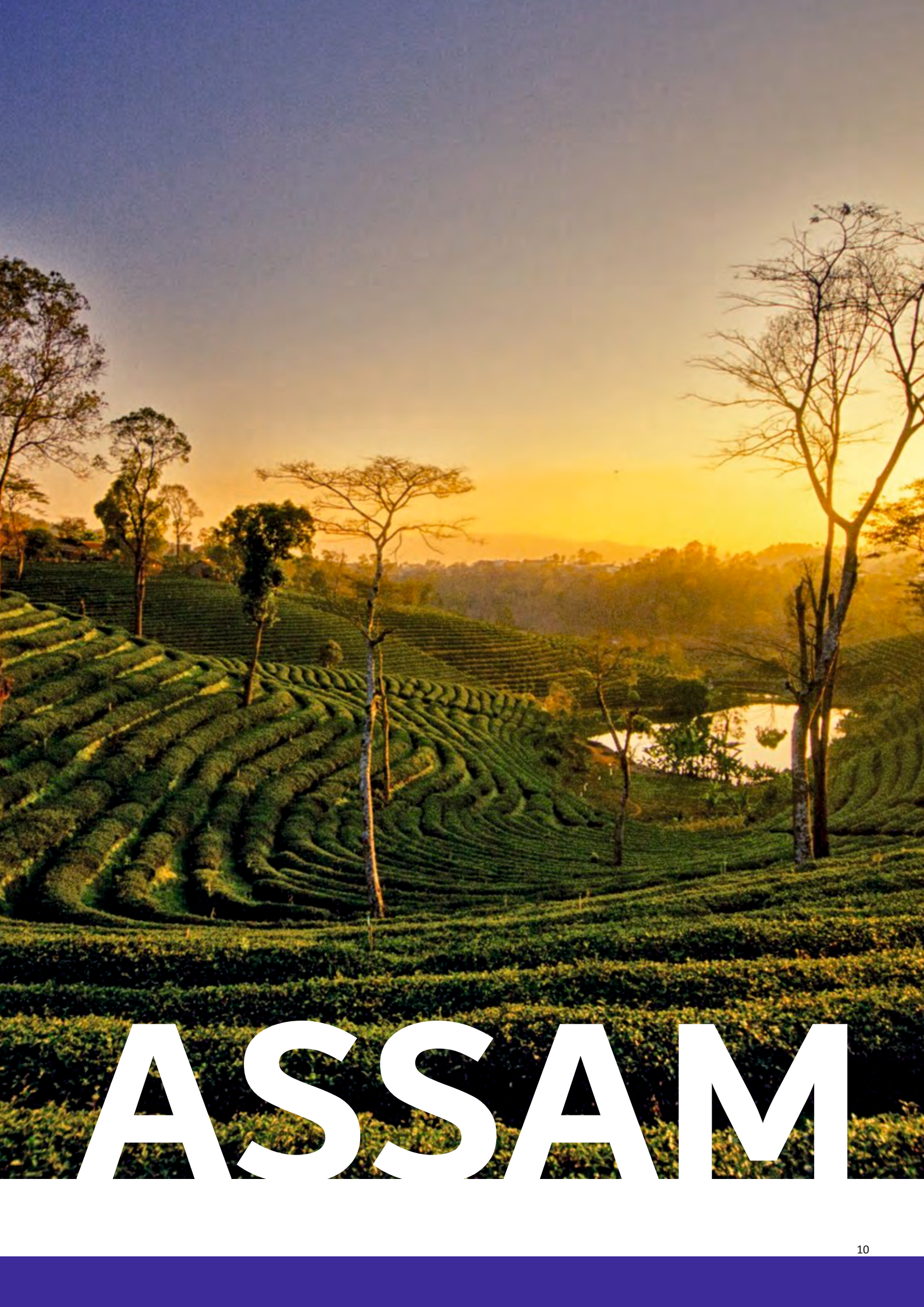


A community meeting on water management

Source: PHED, Arunachal Pradesh



Pharge Village's Water Supply System under Jal Jeevan Mission
Source: PHED, Arunachal Pradesh



ASSAM



4



Source: PHED, Assam

Equal access, stronger communities: JJM’s vision for inclusive growth

Village: Mikirpara Chokardoi
District: Kamrup
State: Assam

Kanti Tumung beams with joy as he enjoys newfound independence, thanks to JJM

For Kanti Tumung, life had become bleak after the death of his wife. He had relied on her for most of his daily needs, as multiple debilitating ailments had led to the loss of his right foot and parts of his hand.

Tumung was first diagnosed with leprosy and later with cancer. Doctors informed him that in order to save his life, they would have to amputate his right foot and parts of his hand. The loss of mobility left him heavily dependent on his family members for assistance.

After his wife’s passing, Tumung’s struggles worsened. His family lived in an area bordering Meghalaya, and to make matters even more challenging, their house was situated on elevated terrain, making simple tasks—like fetching water—difficult. Tumung had to rely on his other family members for water and daily activities.

When tap water was made available at his doorstep under the Jal Jeevan Mission about two years ago, his happiness knew no bounds. No longer entirely dependent on others for his basic needs, he regained much of his independence.

Tumung is among more than 1,500 residents of Mikirpara Chokardoi village in Azara Panchayat under Rani Block. Perhaps, he is also one of the happiest. So much so that he led by example, becoming one of the first to support Jal Jeevan Mission’s 5% capex community contribution by constructing a platform and soak pit at his residence.

Now fitted with an artificial limb, Tumung manages his daily tasks with greater ease, and his standard of living has significantly improved. Though his ability to use his hands remains limited, the fact that his dependency has reduced—thanks to access to tap water—has transformed his life. In his free time, he actively encourages fellow villagers to support the sustainability of the water supply scheme, making him a role model for the entire community.

Now in his early 60s, Tumung shares, “After my wife passed away, I asked my daughter and her husband to move in with me to help with daily chores. I was depressed. But this functional household tap connection (FHTC) came as a beacon of hope, restoring much of the freedom that my ailments had taken away. Now, I can complete most of my work independently. I have built this platform and even installed a water tank to store the water supplied to us from the Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWSS).”





5



Source: PHED, Assam

For the people of Kania Bey, fetching water from distant streams is now a thing of the past

Water and change go hand in hand

Village: Kania Bey

District: Karbi Anglo

State: Assam

For the people of No.2 Kania Bey, a remote tribal village in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam, the arrival of potable water through the Jal Jeevan Mission was nothing short of a godsend. Nestled deep in the Karbi hills, the village is home to the Karbi Tribe and lies nearly 190 kilometers from the district headquarters, Diphu. Part of the Langsomepi block and the Langfer (part) Village Development Council, equivalent to a Panchayat in the plains, Kania Bey was long accustomed to the challenges of daily survival.

The hilly terrain and kutcha roads had made access to essential services difficult, and for generations, a structured water supply was beyond imagination. The villagers relied on mountain streams, often walking several kilometers to fetch water. Like many tribal communities, they used the traditional Long-Chor system – bamboo split into halves, to transport water from springs. Additionally, they had constructed two man-made ponds to store water for the dry seasons, but by winter, even these reservoirs would dry up, forcing people to travel to neighbouring villages or trek to distant streams in search of water.

The completion of the No.2 Kania Bey Water Supply Scheme changed everything. With Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) now reaching every home, the villagers not only gained access to clean water but also found themselves bound by a newfound sense of collective progress. The scheme serves all 63 households, and at its heart lies an active Water User Committee, where six of its fifteen members are women.

More than an infrastructure project, the water supply scheme has become a force of social change. Women, who were once burdened with the task of fetching water, now actively participate in decision-making. Their voices are shaping the future of the village, signaling a shift in traditional roles. With water no longer a daily struggle, the community looks ahead with hope, expecting further development and progress to follow.

Expressing her joy, Mrs. Sanuka Taronpi, an ASHA worker and a proud resident of the village, shared, "Now, I don't have to walk on muddy roads to fetch water from the traditional sources. Instead, I can devote more time to improving the health of our villagers."



Source: PHED, Assam

With tap water now available at their doorstep, women no longer have to walk long distances for water



Source: PHED, Assam

No.2 Kania Bey Water Supply Scheme: A Gateway to Progress



6



Source: PHED, Assam

Participatory discussion led by the Water User Committee, ensuring sustainability, quality, and ownership of the piped water supply system

Women-led Water User Committee of Jorhat

Village: Koraikhow

District: Jorhat

State: Assam

The story of the Koraikhowa Sokolani No.2 Piped Water Supply Scheme is unique, as it made waves in the area by being led by two women from the tea tribe community. Smti. Bina Kurmi and Smti. Joshoda Kurmi were elected as President and Secretary of the Water User Committee (WUC) and have led by example. Situated in Koraikhowa Village of North West Jorhat Development Block, Jorhat district, the village faced significant water issues due to the lack of a proper water supply system. Most villagers relied on wells and handpumps, often located in unhygienic areas. For many women of the underprivileged tea tribe community, collecting water from these sources was a daily struggle, with contamination posing a constant risk.

Through the Koraikhowa Sokolani No.2 scheme, piped water connections were extended to every household, addressing the longstanding issue of water scarcity. This initiative has significantly improved the quality of life by ensuring a continuous and safe water supply, reducing reliance on unreliable and often contaminated sources—iron contamination being the most rampant.

By leveraging modern infrastructure and effective water management practices, the program ensures water is delivered efficiently and sustainably. As a result, residents no longer face hardships in accessing drinking water, and their health and hygiene have seen considerable improvement.

Both Bina Kurmi and Joshoda Kurmi played an instrumental role in ensuring that the scheme not only addressed the drinking water crisis but also promoted long-term water security and sustainability in the village. They ensured regular WUC meetings took place and actively facilitated capacity-building programs to educate villagers on the importance of water conservation, efficient usage, and maintaining piped water infrastructure.

Regular monitoring of water quality and service delivery was established, while the two leaders encouraged villagers to report issues promptly. This participatory approach not only strengthened the scheme's sustainability but also empowered the villagers to take charge of their water resources. Under their leadership, the Koraikhowa Sokolani Water User Committee prioritized reducing the drudgery of women, saving them time and enabling them to focus on education, economic activities, and household responsibilities.

However, the most significant impact of this women-led WUC has been the economic empowerment of women in the village. With more time at their disposal, they have been able to engage in income-generating activities, improving household incomes while fostering active community participation.

"Before the Jal Jeevan Mission, our villagers struggled daily to access clean water. Women would spend hours fetching water from distant sources, and we constantly faced health issues due to unsafe water. Today, with the piped water supply scheme, every household has access to clean drinking water at their doorstep. This has not only improved our health but also saved us valuable time, which we now use for work, education, and family. As VWSC members, we feel a sense of pride and responsibility in maintaining this system," said Bina Kurmi, President of the Water User Committee.



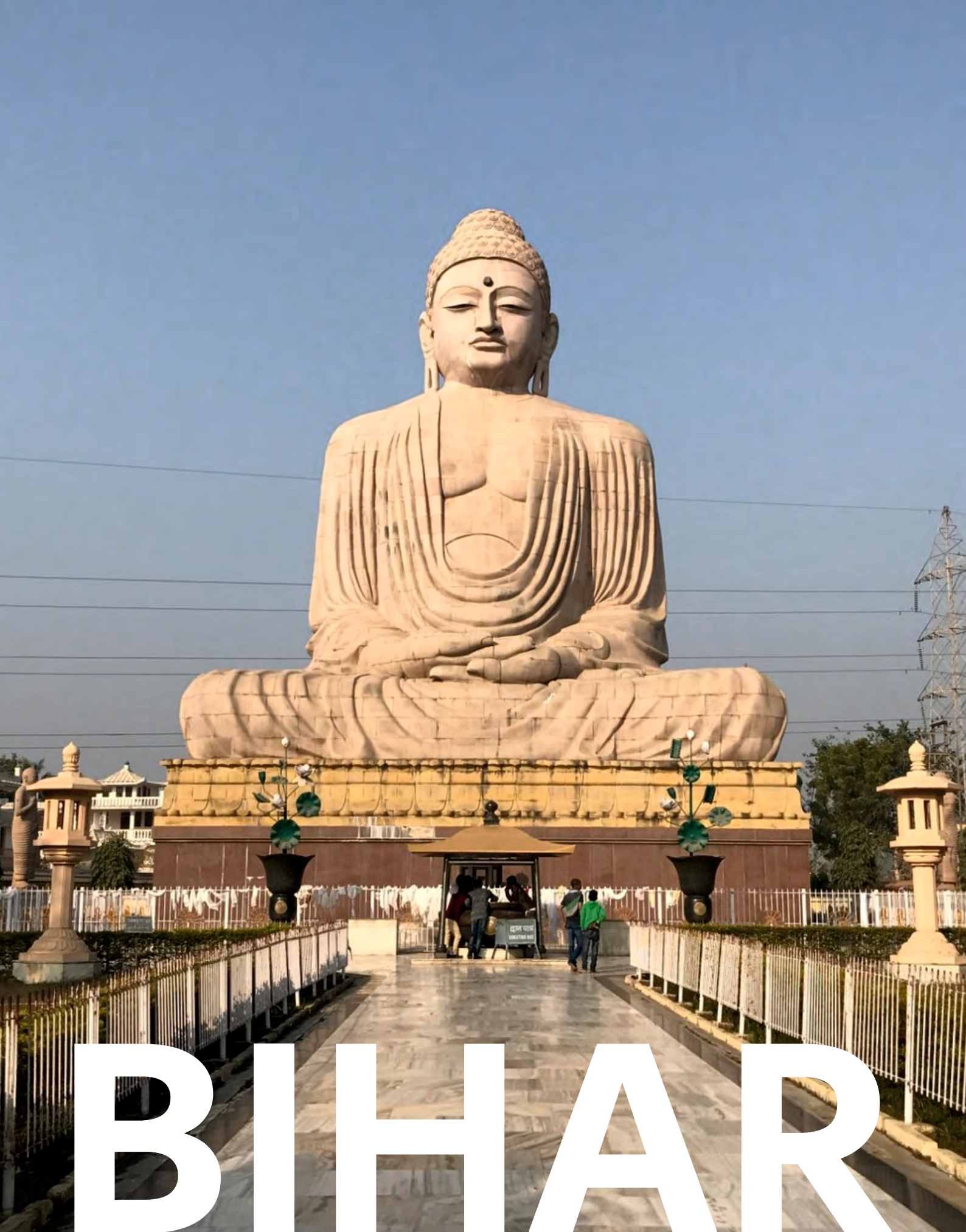
Source: PHED, Assam

Women-led Water User Committee taking a strong step towards community empowerment and water security



Jal Jeevan Abhiyan is not just a government scheme, but it is a scheme run by the community, for the community

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India





7



Priya Kumari using a Field Test Kit (FTK) for water quality testing

Priya's resolve: Leading her village to water security

Gram Panchayat: Sono

District: Jamui

State: Bihar

For the past two years, Priya Kumari has been successfully operating the 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal' initiative under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Peyjal Nishchay Yojana in Jamui district. Not only is she an efficient pump operator, but she also plays a crucial role in water quality testing in the village.

Ensuring water purity in a Fluoride-affected region

Ward No. 12 in this Gram Panchayat, faced a significant challenge due to the high fluoride content in groundwater, which, if consumed over a long period, could lead to severe bone and dental health issues. To tackle this problem, a fluoride treatment plant was installed under the water supply scheme, and Priya Kumari has been responsible for its regular operation and maintenance.

Managing the Panchayat-Level Water Testing Center

Priya is also in charge of the Panchayat Water Testing Center, ensuring that the water supplied to households remains safe and clean. Using a Field Test Kit (FTK), she conducts monthly water quality tests for all local water supply schemes. The results are uploaded on the Jal Jeevan Mission website and shared with the respective pump operators.

Sustaining daily water supply: A challenging yet crucial responsibility

Ensuring three daily water supply cycles (6-9 am, 1-2 pm, and 4-6 pm) for 196 households is not an easy task. Priya swiftly tackles technical challenges such as power outages, motor breakdowns, and pipe leaks, ensuring uninterrupted supply.

The village is home to traders, farmers, and laborers, many of whom leave for work early in the morning. Timely water distribution has brought efficiency and stability to their daily lives.

Community engagement and water conservation awareness

Priya's contribution goes beyond water supply. She actively engages with the community by organizing monthly 'Jal Choupals' to educate villagers about water conservation and sustainable usage. With safe drinking water now available at home, women in the village have saved time and effort, leading to better health and improved quality of life.

As a female pump operator, Priya Kumari has not only ensured efficient water supply but has also introduced a new dimension to water quality monitoring. Her work serves as a powerful example of women's empowerment, proving that when given the right opportunities, women can excel in any field.

"Until every drop of water is safe, our efforts will continue. Water is not just life; it is the foundation of self-reliance and empowerment." – Priya Kumari



Source: PHED, Bihar

Women participating in a 'Jal Choupal'





8



Shushum Lata: A grassroots leader driving change in rural Bihar

Gram Panchayat: Dawa

Block: Jagdishpur

State: Bihar

In Dawa Gram Panchayat, Jagdishpur Block, Bhojpur district, Bihar, Mrs. Shushum Lata, the Mukhiya (village head), has transformed her community through sanitation, waste management, menstrual health awareness, and education. Her leadership has turned challenges into opportunities, making her village a model of cleanliness, sustainability, and self-reliance. When Mrs. Lata assumed office, sanitation was a major issue—streets were littered, and waste disposal was inadequate. Under her leadership, Dawa became Open Defecation Free (ODF) by December 2016, ensuring every household had a toilet under the Swachh Bharat Mission. However, she recognized that infrastructure alone wasn't enough; behavior change and waste management were essential. She initiated a solid and liquid waste management unit, converting waste into organic manure used by farmers. The Panchayat now generates ₹15,000 per month from waste processing, turning a sanitation problem into a source of revenue and environmental sustainability. A significant transformation took place when she led the conversion of a garbage dump—once the site of the historic Dunmrao Maharaj's court—into a modern marketplace. The initiative not only improved sanitation but also boosted local business and created economic opportunities.

Before becoming Mukhiya, Mrs. Lata worked with Jeevika SHGs, where she frequently heard women discussing menstrual health issues. Upon taking office, she discovered that many illnesses among women were linked to poor menstrual hygiene. Determined to address this, she:

- Established a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit under the Chief Minister Nav Parivartan Yojana, producing affordable biodegradable sanitary pads priced at ₹26–₹28 per pack.
- Trained and empowered 1,400 women from Jeevika SHGs in menstrual health awareness.
- Created employment opportunities for women in the sanitary pad production unit, ensuring both health benefits and financial independence.

This initiative not only improved menstrual hygiene but also reduced stigma surrounding the issue, making Dawa a model for women-led health initiatives. Education has been another priority under her leadership. Mrs. Lata has worked to improve school attendance, quality of education, and student engagement by:

- Holding regular parent-teacher meetings to address concerns.
- Setting up a complaint box for students and teachers to report issues.
- Organizing sports, speech competitions, and remedial tuition classes, ensuring that children, particularly girls, continue their education.

As a result, school attendance has risen to 95%, with a notable increase in the number of girls attending school—a crucial step toward gender equality in education. Recognition and National Impact. For her exceptional leadership in sanitation and community development, Mrs. Lata was honored as a Swachhata Champion and represented Bihar at the Swachh Bharat Diwas ceremony in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on October 2, 2024. In the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, she stood as a symbol of grassroots leadership driving change. Mrs. Shushum Lata's visionary leadership has redefined governance at the Panchayat level. Her focus on sanitation, women's health, waste management, and education has made Dawa a self-sustaining, cleaner, and more progressive village. Her work demonstrates the power of women leaders in transforming rural communities—proving that true change begins when local voices take charge of their own development.



Source: Bihar, SBM(G)

Transformed Garbage Dump into a market place, under the leadership of Shushum Lata





GUJARAT



9



Inclusive sanitation initiatives in Sultanpur

Village: Sultanpur

District: Navsari

State: Gujarat

In Gujarat, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the state has had some remarkable milestones that include construction of over 43.5 lakh Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) that have transformed sanitation access for millions of households. In addition, construction of over 7,000 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs), with more than 3,000 specifically designed to cater to the needs of differently abled citizens, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. The village of Sultanpur, located in Navsari District, has become a shining example of inclusive and sustainable sanitation under SBM-G. With a population of 2,785 and 657 households, the village has transformed through a shared goal to end open defecation and ensure that every home has access to toilet.

In Navsari District, over 2 lakh individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been constructed that has ensured that every household had a toilet. In Sultanpur, households embraced the change wholeheartedly, taking ownership of their sanitation facilities and committing to the village's ODF status. However, the story didn't end with individual toilets. Recognizing the needs of larger public gatherings, the village took a strategic step by constructing a Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) near the historic Jogeshwar Temple. This location was carefully chosen as the temple sees a significant footfall of devotees, especially during Shivratri, when 4,000 to 5,000 visitors throng the area. The CSC serves as a vital facility to maintain hygiene during such peak times, demonstrating the Panchayat's foresight in addressing communal needs.

Sustainability is at the heart of this initiative and the Panchayat has implemented measures to ensure their regular maintenance, cleanliness, and accessibility. Community engagement campaigns reinforce the importance of hygienic practices, embedding them into daily life and ensuring that open defecation does not return. In keeping with its inclusive approach, Sultanpur Panchayat has gone a step further to cater to the needs of differently abled individuals. The CSC near Jogeshwar Temple is equipped with Braille script signage, ensuring accessibility for visually impaired residents and visitors. This initiative is part of a broader district-wide effort where over 30 Divyang-friendly toilets have been built in compliance with SBM-G specifications:

The specifications of these Divyang-friendly toilets for inclusive and accessible designing to reflect meticulous planning:

- Ramp access with handrails for easy navigation.
- Entrance or Wide doors to accommodate wheelchairs.
- Low-height basins and grab bars to assist users with limited mobility.
- Space for a wheelchair to enter, shut the door, and turn around inside.
- Water bucket or pot must be kept at a height that is convenient.

The Sultanpur Panchayat's commitment to inclusivity ensures that divyang-Jan can access these facilities with dignity and ease. The village stands as a shining example of how thoughtful planning, strategic execution, and a commitment to inclusivity can create lasting impacts. Sultanpur's story is one of progress, equity, and sustainability, embodying the true spirit of the Swachh Bharat Mission.



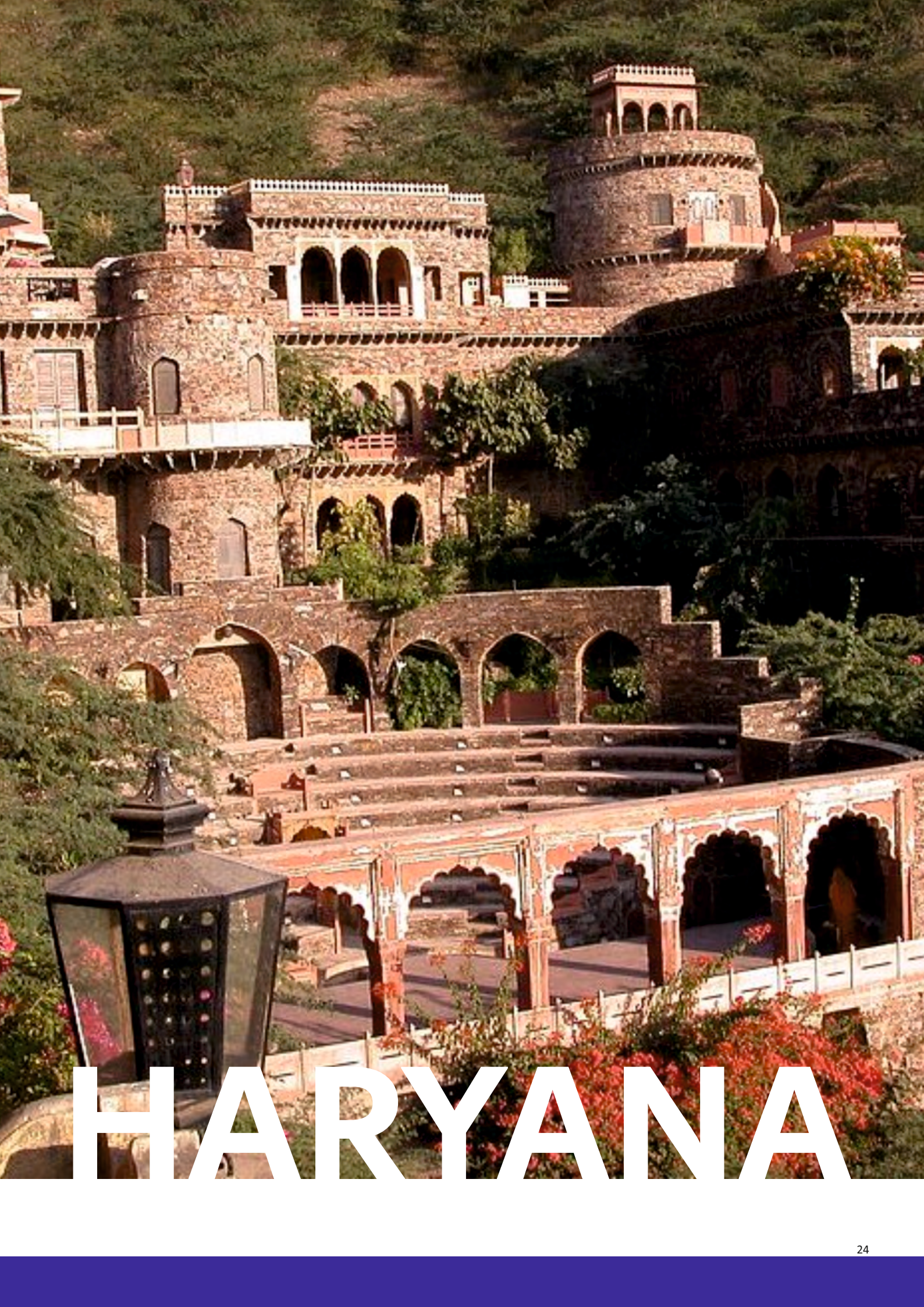
Source: Gujarat, SBM(G)

Divyangjan-Friendly Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) in Sultanpur, Navsari District of Gujarat, ensuring inclusive and accessible sanitation for all



People's power, women power, and power of technology are powering the Jal Jeevan Mission

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



HARYANA



10



Source: Haryana, SBM(G)

Transforming waste: A village's journey with Meena Kumari

Village: Maranwala

District: Panchkula

State: Haryana

In the heart of Kalka tehsil, where Maranwala village lies nestled within the Panchkula district of Haryana, home to roughly 4,000 people. Beyond mere numbers, within these humble streets, a beacon of change shines brightly. Ms. Meena, a woman of unwavering determination, the driving force behind a self-help group registered under the Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission.

In 2016, Maranwala faced a crisis – filthy streets and no proper waste management system in place. Meena, armed with courage, sprang into action. She initiated door-to-door solid waste collection, renting a tractor trolley and assembling a team of one driver and two waste collectors. Every day, she traversed the village, reaching 100-150 households, offering her vital service.

Despite the challenges, Meena's resolve only strengthened. With the support of her SHG group, she took a bank loan to purchase a second-hand tractor at an interest of 1%. Meena meticulously organized her team to sort waste, distinguishing between biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials. With no shed available, her rooftop transformed into a bustling recycling centre, where plastics, steel, cloth, and other recyclables found new purpose. As the venture grew, so did Meena's outreach. She diligently sold plastic at Rs. 20 per kg, glass at Rs. 2 per kg, steel roof sheets at Rs. 25 per kg, and more. Composting from biodegradable waste became another stream of income for her group. Meena's self-help group adopted a circular economy model, charging households and commercial establishments Rs. 50 for their indispensable services.

Initially, the village resisted change. However, with Meena's tenacity and the support of the Sarpanch and other leaders, over 80% of the village now willingly pay for these essential services. Meena stands tall as a testament to the power of grassroots efforts, showcasing how waste management in villages can be transformed, paving the way for a sustainable circular economy.

Yet, Meena's journey is more than just about waste management; it is about breaking barriers and redefining leadership in a space where women's voices often go unheard. In a field traditionally dominated by men, she has not only carved a path for herself but has also empowered other women to join the movement. Her efforts have inspired many to step forward, proving that community-driven solutions, when led by determined individuals like her, can reshape rural landscapes. By turning waste into opportunity, Meena is not just cleaning streets—she is leading a revolution, demonstrating that change begins when one woman dare to act.





11



Jal Jeevan Mission Beneficiary: Mrs. Rinku

Empowerment Through Water: A Step Towards Social Change

Village: Azadnagar
District: Jhajjar
State: Haryana

Azadnagar, a small village located in the Matanhail block of Jhajjar district, Haryana, is situated 18 kilometers from Jhajjar. As per 2019 data, it is also a Gram Panchayat. The total geographical area of the village is spread over several hectares, with a population of 613, comprising 356 men and 257 women. The literacy rate in the village stands at 82.20%, with male literacy at 88.23% and female literacy at 72.80%. The village consists of a total of 141 households.

The situation before Jal Jeevan Mission

Water supply in Azadnagar was inadequate. The residents primarily relied on borewells and a public hand pump located near the Panchayat Ghar for their water needs. This water was used for drinking and household purposes. Women were forced to carry water on their heads, which not only consumed their time but also adversely affected their daily routine and health. For villagers dependent on livestock, the lack of water was a major challenge.

Implementation under Jal Jeevan Mission

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, extensive work was carried out in the village with an investment of approximately ₹74 lakh:

- 370 meters of 4-inch pipeline was laid.
- 129 households received tap connections (FHTC).
- Construction work at the waterhouse included:
 - Inlet channel, filter media, and filter bed.
 - Cleaning of SS tanks and strengthening of boundary walls.

Sarita, a Panch and a member of the Water Committee, shares:

"Earlier, we had to walk long distances to fetch water, which not only wasted time but also caused exhaustion and inconvenience. But now, with a tap connection at home, the water crisis has been resolved, and our time is being saved. Most importantly, we now have access to clean and pure water, positively impacting our health and well-being."

A New Picture of Change in the Village

The story of Azadnagar resonates in the voices of women like Rinku, who once struggled with water scarcity but now experience water security. JJM has introduced a transformation by ensuring safe and clean drinking water in every household. Previously, women had no choice but to fetch water from distant handpumps and canals. Now, they have easy access to water at home, saving them time and enabling them to participate in social and economic activities. The availability of adequate water has also relieved farmers and livestock owners from their struggles.

Smt. Rinku, a JJM beneficiary says, "I am a person with disabilities, and fetching water from a distance was a struggle. But ever since I got a water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission, I now have access to clean water at home. This is nothing less than a blessing for me."



Source: PHE D, Haryana

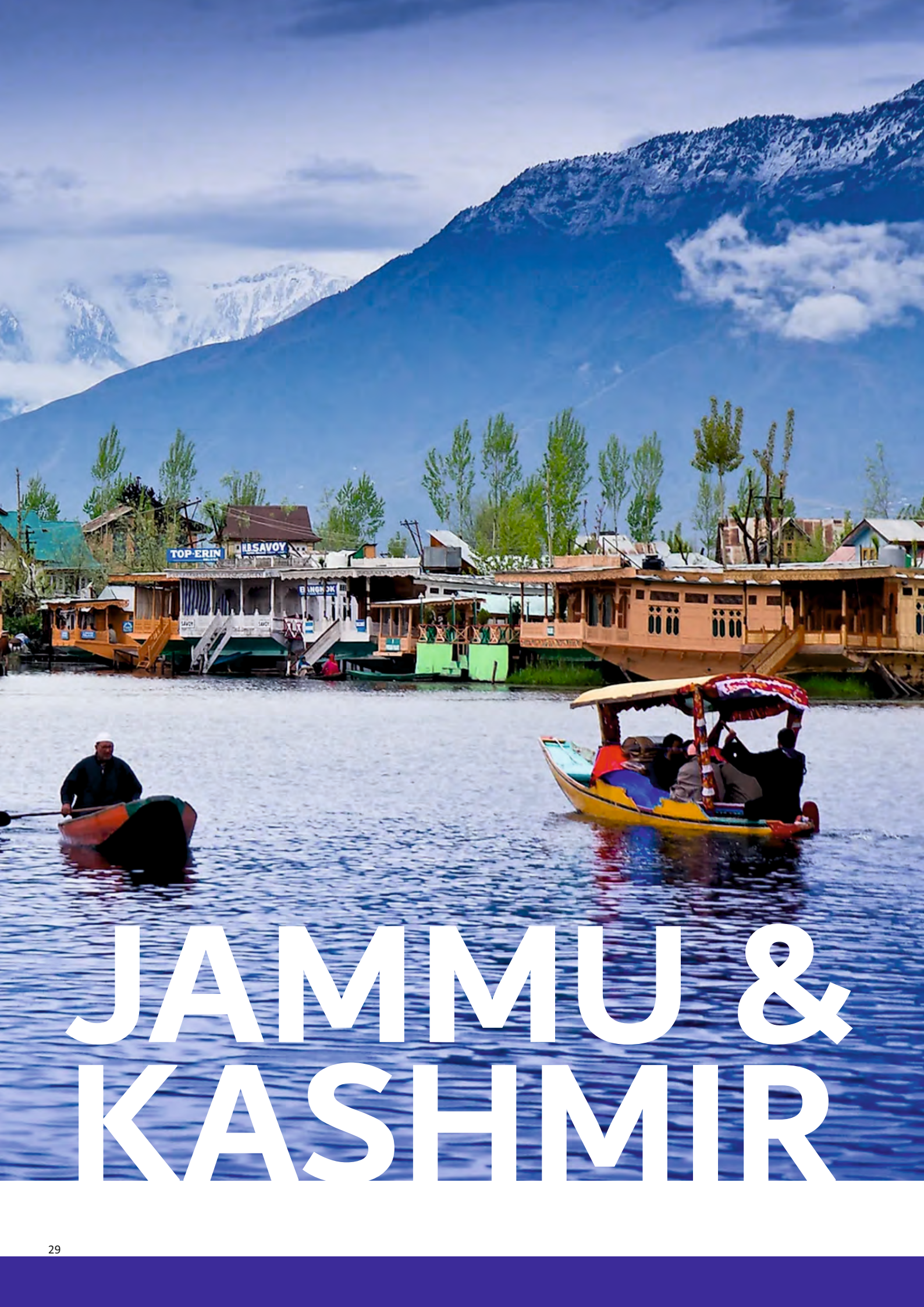
Villagers take an oath for clean water and a secure future



source: PHED, Haryana

Discussion on key water issues and encouraging community engagement in an awareness session





JAMMU & KASHMIR



12



Source: Jai Shakti Department, J&K

Manisha Rajpoot now supports her family through stitching

Water makes way for Manisha Rajpoot to earn her own living

Village: KalPardhari

District: Udhampur

State: Jammu & Kashmir

In the village of KalPardhari in Udhampur, Manisha Rajpoot, 25, now earns her own living and supports the family. Life, however, was not always like this. Along with several others from her village, she had been to spend many years walking long distances to fetch water. "Our time was spent on just one task: bringing water from different places. It took all our energy and left no time for education or work," she recalls.

For years, in the village, women had no choice but to put the collection of water above all else. The thoughts of independence were in Manisha's mind but without water at home, it seemed far-fetched. "There was no way forward. We were stuck," she says.

And then, one day, everything changed.

She recalls vividly the first day the waters flowed from the taps - an unforgettable day, as she puts it. "The whole village was happy. The struggle of carrying water from faraway places finally ended."

With her time now free, Manisha felt it was high time she did something meaningful. From thereon, she began to learn tailoring and worked tirelessly till she became a professional at it. The Khoon scheme under JJM helped her along with other women of the village with learning and earning opportunities.

"The water was like a blessing. It allowed us to gather for activities that benefit our long-term future," she says. She earns enough now to support her family through stitching. Other young women in the village have also started working in various fields. "Life is much better now," she adds.

To Manisha, water is a giver of time, a changer of life. "Water has given us freedom. It has broken barriers and helped us stand on our own feet. It truly is life," she says.



Source: Jal Shakti Department, J&K

A Glimpse of Rural Water Infrastructure



The reason for the success of Jal Jeevan Mission is its four strong pillars:

- Political Will
- Public Finance
- People's Participation
- Partnership

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



JHARKHAND



Renu Devi's journey in women's empowerment and waste management

Village: Dahu

Block: Ormanjhi

State: Jharkhand

Renu Devi is a 42-year-old mother of two from Dahu village, Ormanjhi Block, Barwe Panchayat, Jharkhand, she embodies the transformative power of opportunity and empowerment. Before joining the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Ranchi, Renu was a housewife with no source of income. However, since July 2024, she has been working as a Safai Mitra at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Ranchi.

On her first day at the MRF, Renu and six other women Safai Mitras were provided with hands-on training on waste segregation and machine operations. Every day since completion of her training, Renu dedicates eight hours to her work, segregating approximately 90 kilograms of dry and plastic waste daily. So far, the MRF has collected 43 metric tons of dry and plastic waste, with 11 metric tons sent to recyclers and aggregators for further processing (as of November 2024). Beyond her duties at the MRF, Renu engages with her local community in Barwe Panchayat, where she focuses on spreading awareness about the importance of waste segregation and responsible disposal practices.

Renu, in her months of working at the MRF, has been capacitated and has evolved from just a being a woman from a scheduled caste trying to make her ends meet to becoming a confident woman who is passionate about her work and is equipped to share her experience at events that are attended by senior bureaucrats among others.

Inclusive efforts like this are important as they allow for an environment that furthers last mile inclusion. The MRF program not only provides employment to women like Renu but also actively involves tribal and marginalized communities, fostering collective responsibility for environmental sustainability. Renu's employment has not only provided her financial stability—where she earns ₹7,000 per month—but has also elevated her status within the community.

She encourages her neighbours, who were once indifferent to waste management, to adopt better practices, and they now recognize her as a leader driving positive change in the community. Renu's story is a powerful reminder that women, when given the opportunity, can be the driving force behind meaningful change—empowering themselves, their families, and their communities to create a more sustainable and cleaner world.

She shared, "Through my work, I am not only supporting my family but also showing my children and community that cleanliness is everyone's responsibility."



Source: Jharkhand, SBM(G)

“

The implementation of this Mission is in the hands of community, all members of the village are to come together to implement this Mission...

...decisions on route of water pipeline, water harvesting, operation and maintenance will be made by people themselves and our sisters have a very important role to play.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



Flowing tap water brings smiles and relief

Decades after Independence, clean water finally reaches Bhaluksundia

Village: Bhaluksundia

District: Dumka

State: Jharkhand

Source: PHED, Jharkhand

For the first time since Independence, every household in Bhaluksundia village now has access to clean drinking water, thanks to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which is leaving no stone unturned to reach those who were once left out. Tucked away 15 km from the block headquarters, this small village is home to 65 families, including six primitive tribal families from the Pahariya community, with a total population of around 300 people.

Until recently, villagers had to trek long distances to fetch water, with women spending more than half their day just collecting it. Monsoons brought further hardships, as contaminated water led to frequent waterborne diseases.

That struggle is now a thing of the past. Drinking Water and Sanitation Division No. 02, Dumka, stepped in to change lives, installing a 4,000-liter capacity tank and borewell, ensuring a steady, reliable water supply. With stand posts and tap connections in every home under the "Har Ghar Jal" initiative, clean drinking water has become a daily reality for every family. This has not only eased their burden but also brought a new sense of comfort and security.

For Sadan Murmu, a member of the Pahariya community, this transformation feels nothing short of a celebration. "When the Jal Jeevan Mission came to our village, it was like a festival! We all took part in planning and execution, and now, every home has tap water. It's an incredible relief!"

The joy is shared by Badoli Pujhar, who recalls the daily grind of fetching water. "Earlier, we relied on a distant hand pump. The journey would take up our entire day. But now, water flows right into our homes, saving time and energy. Our children no longer have to rush—they reach school on time, focus on their studies, and dream bigger!"

This progress has been carefully nurtured by the village Jal Sahiya (Water Caretaker), Emeli Besra, and Gram Panchayat head, Jagdish Tudu. They ensure that villagers are regularly educated about water safety and sanitation, while frequent water quality checks guarantee safe consumption.

Today, Bhaluksundia village is free from water scarcity – a village once burdened by water scarcity is now flowing with new possibilities. For the Pahariya community, this transformation marks a new dawn, new opportunities, and a brighter future. With its strong commitment, JJM continues to bring safe drinking water to the remotest corners, ensuring that no one is left behind.



Source: PHED, Jharkhand

Village Jal Sahiya testing tap water quality to ensure every home gets safe and pure drinking water





15



Source: PHED, Jharkhand

Peter, a resident of Kewda village

End to a decades-long struggle for water: A 30-year-old dream comes true

Village: Kewda

Block: Murhu

District: Khunti

For three decades, Peter and his family in Kewda village, Khunti district, struggled for access to safe drinking water. Their daily routine began at 4 AM with the daunting task of fetching water. Armed with torches in the dark, Peter, his wife, and their five children – three sons and two daughters – walked 2.5 miles to collect water from an unprotected spring. The journey, including waiting in the line, took about one and a half hours. Any delay meant more people in the queue, making children late for school.

Peter's youngest daughter, Priscilla, was just four years old but had to be part of this struggle. Peter recalls, "I used to carry a small bottle for Priscilla so she could get used to it. Our children never had time to play or enjoy their childhood."

The water crisis was not just about time consumption; it severely impacted their health. The family suffered from waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, and stomach infections. Instead of focusing on his farming and dairy business, Peter spent most of his time fetching water. His wife and older children dedicated entire Saturdays to washing clothes, as they had to stay at the water source until the clothes dried. However, things changed drastically when the Khunti district administration, in collaboration with the Murhu Block Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, implemented a single-village rural water supply scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The efforts of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee paid off, and soon, all 100 households in Kewda village received clean tap water at home.

Now, young Priscilla can enjoy her childhood instead of struggling for water. Peter may have spent his life fighting this hardship, but his children won't have to.

Sushanti Barjo, who lives in Dehkela village of Kewda Panchayat, with her husband John Hassa Purti and two children, recalls, "Life in our village used to be filled with hardships. Water scarcity was a constant issue, leading to widespread diseases like diarrhea, typhoid, and stomach infections. Everyone, from children to the elderly, had to bear the burden of fetching water daily."

But everything has changed now.

Sushanti Barjo says, "Now, every household in our village has access to tap water. Clean water is supplied twice a day, improving both health and hygiene. Cases of diarrhea and typhoid have dropped significantly. Not only does the water taste better, but we have also improved our cleanliness and hygiene. Villagers have become more aware of water conservation and now use water responsibly, helping preserve resources."

The story of Kewda village teaches us that with proper planning, dedicated efforts, and collective participation, even the impossible can be achieved.

Peter says, "This feels like a dream come true. Now, my children don't have to wake up at 4 AM to fetch water. We have clean tap water at home, ensuring enough supply for our cattle, improving milk production, and most importantly, giving us more time for our fields and family."



Source: PHED, Jharkhand

Sushanti Barjo, a resident of Dehkela village





KARNATAKA



16



Source: RDWSD, Karnataka

From struggle to self-sufficiency

A journey from water scarcity to gender equality

Village: Kambagi
District: Vijayapura
State: Karnataka

Kambagi, an agricultural village in Vijayapura district, Karnataka, long struggled with severe water scarcity, affecting daily life and livelihoods. Women bore the brunt of this crisis, spending hours each day walking over two kilometers to fetch water. The heavy burden of carrying pots not only impacted their health but also restricted their participation in education, income-generating activities, and community development.

The lack of potable water also contributed to waterborne diseases, increasing medical expenses and affecting overall community well-being. Social norms further reinforced gender inequalities, preventing women from having a voice in decision-making. The implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has brought a revolutionary shift to Kambagi. It has transformed women from water carriers to decision-makers, breaking deep-seated social barriers and fostering gender equality.

Women's participation in the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) has been instrumental in the success of JJM. Traditionally excluded from governance, they are now key stakeholders in water resource management, planning, and sustainability. Under JJM, the VWSC was formed to ensure community ownership of the village's water supply system. Women actively participated in planning the distribution network, overseeing implementation, and ensuring functional tap connections for every household. Training and awareness programs equipped them with technical knowledge on water management, budgeting, and infrastructure maintenance.

With JJM's intervention, Kambagi has undergone a remarkable transformation. The project, implemented with the cooperation of the Zilla Panchayat, Gram Panchayat, and Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, ensured household tap connections for every villager. The initiative was marked by the Har Ghar Jalotsava celebration, symbolizing the fulfillment of a long-awaited dream.

One of JJM's most profound impacts in Kambagi has been dismantling social barriers that once restricted women's participation in governance. With their active involvement in VWSC, women have gained confidence, respect, and decision-making power in their community.

Smt. Shantabai E Dalavai, an active VWSC member, shares her experience:

"For years, our lives revolved around collecting water. We never had the opportunity to think beyond survival. But today, we are part of the decision-making process, ensuring every household in our village has clean water. JJM has given us not just water; it has given us dignity and a voice."



With clean water now available at their doorstep, residents no longer struggle for daily access





17



A young girl enjoys the convenience of safe drinking water at their doorstep

Bringing water to Karalake: A model of social equity & change

Village: Karalakatte
District: Chamarajanagar
State: Karnataka

Karalakatte, a remote village in Thimmarajipura Gram Panchayat, Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka, is home to the Soliga tribal community. As per the 2011 Census, the village had 71 Scheduled Tribe (ST) households, with a population of 229 individuals—109 males and 129 females. Over the years, the population has grown to approximately 400 residents. Despite being just 12 km from the taluk headquarters, the village faced severe water scarcity for decades.

Before Jal Jeevan Mission, villagers relied on an open water source near the Manthe Swamy Kurubanakatte temple, nearly 2 km away. The trek through dense forests was perilous, with frequent wildlife encounters. Women and children, primarily responsible for fetching water, spent hours daily on this exhausting and unsafe task. Hand pumps and borewells proved unreliable, forcing residents to consume unsafe water, leading to frequent illnesses.

To address the crisis, the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Chamarajanagar, implemented a multi-village drinking water project under JJM, sourcing clean water from the Palya Multi-Village Drinking Water Supply Scheme. HDPE pipelines now supply potable water directly to 81 households, ensuring 24x7 access to safe drinking water.

Beyond access to clean water, JJM has dismantled social barriers. Previously, marginalized communities like the Soligas faced discrimination in accessing water. Now, every household receives an equal share, fostering unity and eliminating caste-based segregation. Women, freed from the burden of water collection, can now engage in education, economic activities, and self-care.

The successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Karalakatte has not only provided a sustainable water supply but also uplifted the community by ensuring social equity and justice. This best practice serves as an inspiring model for other rural areas facing similar challenges. By ensuring equal access to safe drinking water, JJM has paved the way for a healthier, more inclusive, and empowered society in Karalakatte village.

Radhamma, a resident, shared her relief: "For years, fetching water consumed my time and energy, affecting my work and family. We also feared wild animals, especially in the early mornings and late evenings. Today, with tap water at home, life has changed – my children are healthier, and I can focus on work."



Source: RDWSD, Karnataka

An old woman enjoys the convenience of safe drinking water at their doorstep, a testament to the transformative impact of Jal Jeevan Mission





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Source: RDWSD, Karnataka

Seated at her doorstep, Mahadevamma embodies strength and resilience, facing challenges with strong will

For Mahadevamma, water now stands for freedom and inclusion

Village: Heggawadi
District: Chamarajanagar
State: Karnataka

Nestled in Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, Heggawadi is a small yet vibrant village located 18 km from the district headquarters and 8 km from the Mukkadahalli Gram Panchayat. Home to 179 families, including 145 Scheduled Caste families, 15 minority families, and 19 others, the village once struggled with acute water scarcity, impacting daily life, particularly for women and the specially-abled. The launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, however, has ushered in a transformative era for the village.

Among the many beneficiaries of JJM in Heggawadi is Mahadevamma, a specially-abled woman who has faced immense challenges. Born as the fifth child to Chikkalingayya and Nanjamma, her life changed tragically at the age of one when a fire accident left her physically challenged. Despite her limitations, she grew up with resilience and determination. Now 48 years old, she has remained unmarried and has lived alone since the passing of her parents a decade ago. To sustain herself, Mahadevamma works as a daily wage laborer under the MGNREGA scheme.

However, the absence of a water connection at home made life even harder. She had to fetch water from a distant hand pump, carrying heavy pots despite her physical condition. The exhausting task impacted her ability to work, leaving her drained. On festival days, long queues at the water source made it nearly impossible for her to collect enough water, adding to her struggles. The implementation of JJM in Heggawadi has been a game-changer for Mahadevamma and many others.

Beyond Water: Breaking Barriers and Building Inclusion

JJM's impact goes beyond providing safe drinking water—it has fostered social inclusion. Earlier, women and the specially-abled faced discrimination at public water collection points. Now, with household connections, these barriers have diminished, promoting dignity and equality. Women, freed from the burden of fetching water, can now focus on education, livelihood, and self-development.

As Karnataka continues its journey towards universal access to clean drinking water, stories like hers serve as a beacon of hope, underscoring the profound impact of ensuring essential resources for all.

"Thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission, I no longer have to struggle to fetch water from far. Now, clean drinking water is available right at my doorstep. It has brought immense relief, especially for elderly people, children, and laborers like me. I am even able to pay the water charges, ensuring the sustainability of this service," she says with gratitude.



Source: RDWSD, Karnataka

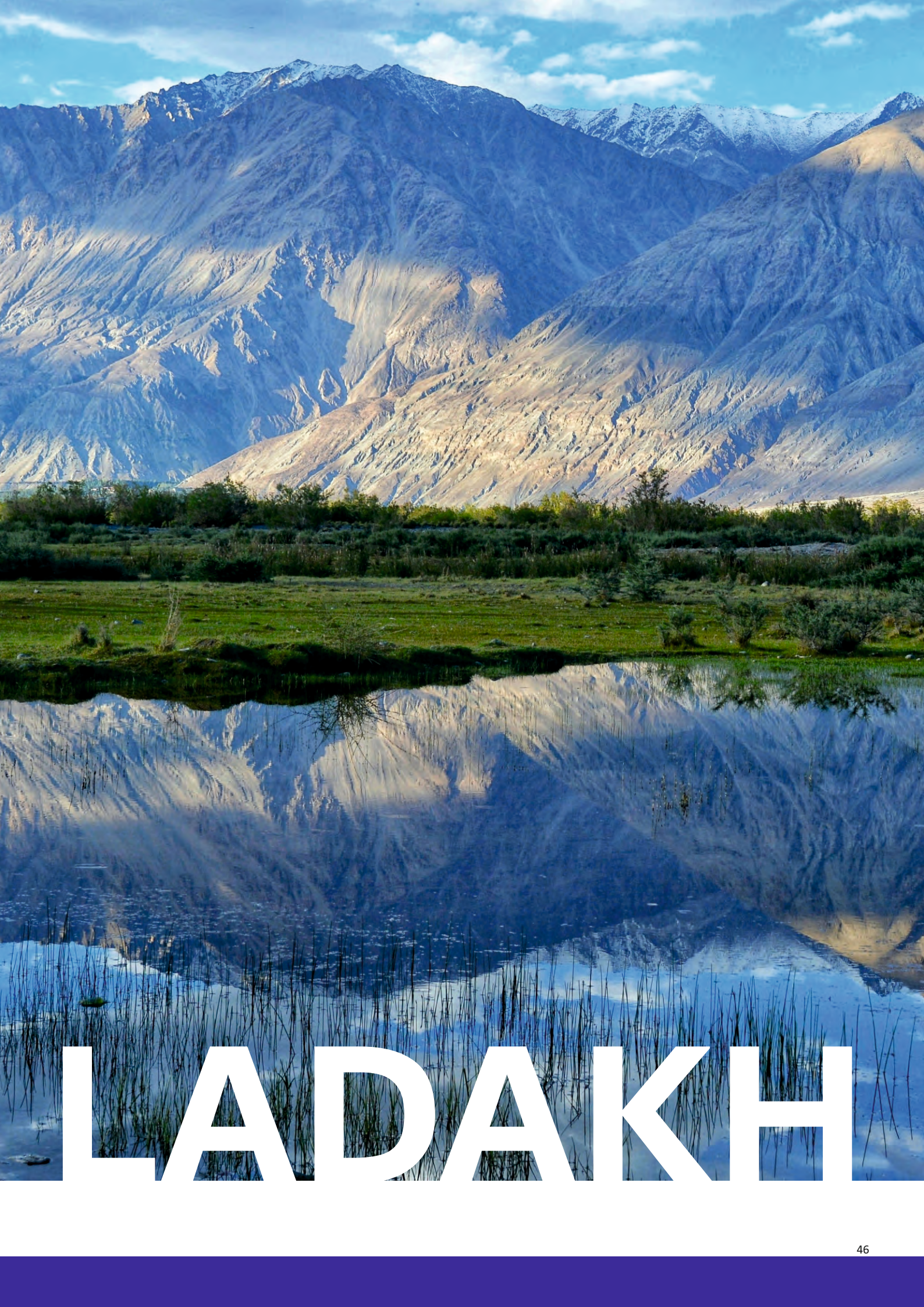
Mahadevamma, once burdened by the struggle of fetching water, now stands with dignity beside her household tap connection



“

When the people take ownership of a scheme, unprecedented results are sure to come. You have the examples in the form of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Amrit Sarovar Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission etc. The main basis of their success is the ownership by the public.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



LADAKH



19



Tsering Dolker at her small homestay while filling water

Tsering's journey from fetching water to finding freedom

Village: Hankar

District: Leh

State: Ladakh

In Hankar village, nestled in the remote terrains of Ladakh, Tsering Dolker's life was once shaped by the relentless task of fetching water. Like many rural women, she bore the weight of this daily chore, a responsibility that often limited opportunities beyond household work. Jal Jeevan Mission has changed this reality, not just by providing tap water supply but by breaking deep-rooted social barriers that have long defined the role of women in water collection.

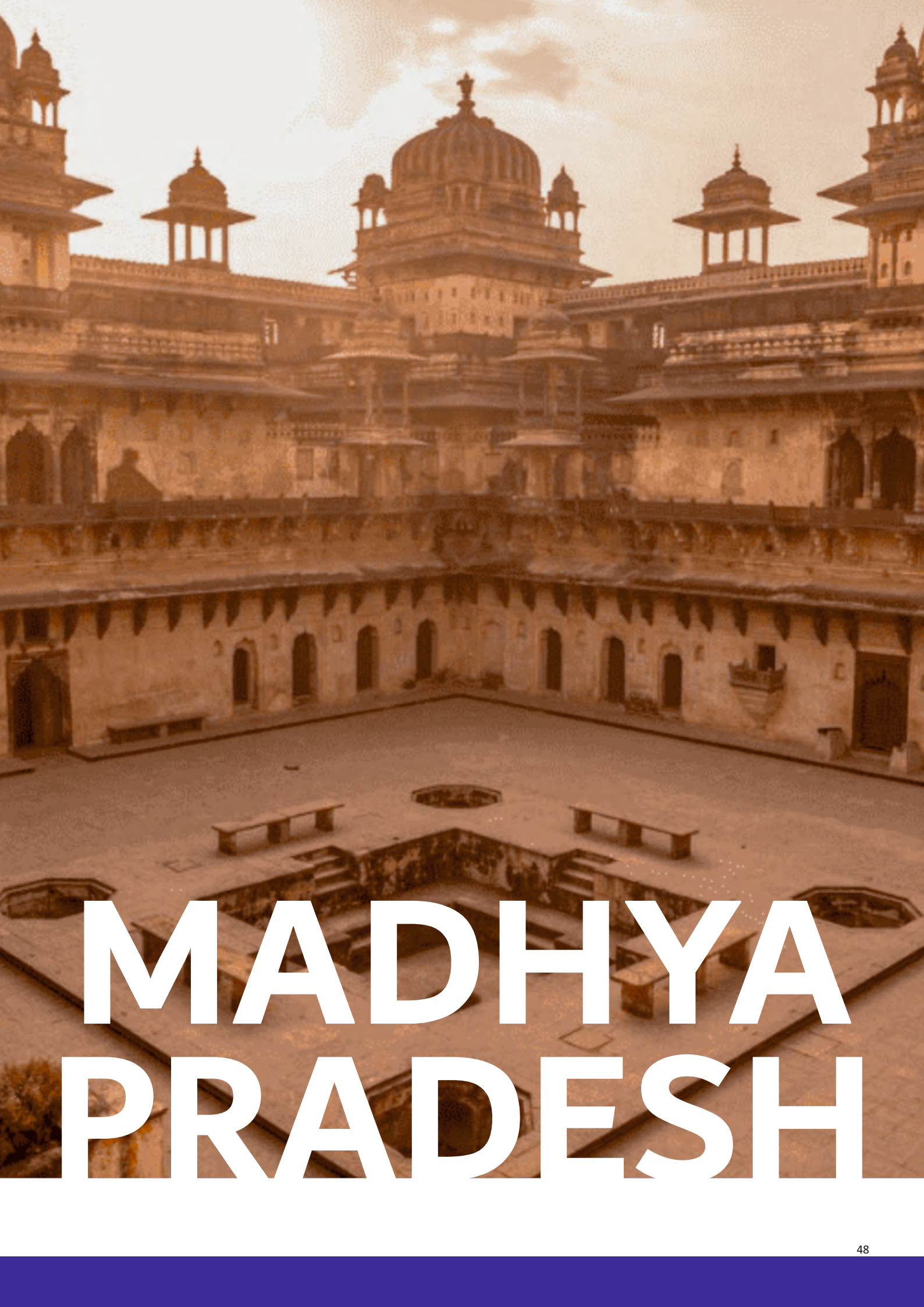
Tsering runs a small homestay, welcoming trekkers who pass through her village in the summer months. Earlier, the absence of a piped water connection meant that she had to spend hours fetching and manually filling the water tank to keep the bathroom functional for her guests. This left her with little time to focus on other aspects of her business. The burden of water collection, a task traditionally assigned to women, kept her tied to a cycle of labour that hindered her ability to expand her livelihood.

With JJM ensuring a reliable household tap connection, Tsering's life has taken a turn. No longer bound by the exhausting routine of fetching water, she can now focus on running her homestay efficiently. The time she once spent carrying water is now invested in preparing food, managing her guests, and improving her services. More than convenience, this access to water has granted her the freedom to grow her business, enhancing not only her income but also her confidence and independence.

By bringing piped water to homes, JJM is dismantling barriers that have historically kept women in cycles of unpaid labour. Women like Tsering are no longer restricted by the burden of water collection. They are stepping into roles of economic empowerment, dignity, and the freedom to shape their futures on their own terms.

"I have a tap connection at my home, which has greatly improved our hygiene as we can bathe and wash our clothes regularly. During summer, tourists sometimes visit and stay, and we used to spend half of our day fetching and filling the water tank to ensure we had enough water for the bathroom. Now, with the tap connection, we save that time and can focus on other important tasks, significantly improving our livelihood," shares Tsering.





MADHYA PRADESH



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Source: PHED & Jal Nigam, Madhya Pradesh

Life has become easier with tap water at home

Overcoming inequalities, bringing prosperity

Village: Kushaha

District: Mauganj

State: Madhya Pradesh

Kushaha village, located in the Naigarhi block of Mauganj district, consists of three settlements, one of which is a Muslim settlement. 28-year-old Shehzadi Begum, a resident of this settlement, lives with her husband Fakir Mohammad. She recalls that a few years ago, the water crisis in the area was severe.

Despite being only 39 kilometers from the district headquarters, Kushaha faced an acute water shortage, prompting a local resident, Shri Ramlal Saket, to donate his land for the construction of a water tank. The settlement is home to 60 Muslim families, for whom water availability was a major challenge. Only a handful of households had borewells, forcing the rest to fetch water from distant sources. Those who had access to water would often decide whether to share it or not, leaving many women to return home with empty containers.

During the summer months, the situation worsened. The groundwater level dropped drastically, rendering most borewells ineffective. Even the water supplied by tankers was insufficient for everyone. The only water source available was an old well near the local mosque, but as summer progressed, its water level also depleted. Women had no choice but to wait through the night by the well, hoping to collect enough water for their families.

Shehzadi Begum recounts that since she moved to her marital home, she had struggled with water scarcity. With her husband engaged in daily labor and farming, managing water for household needs fell solely on her shoulders. The plight of other women and young girls in the settlement was similar – they had to leave their small children with elders and wander from one settlement to another in search of water.

However, everything changed with Jal Jeevan Mission. With the installation of piped water supply directly to homes, the settlement's water crisis was completely resolved. Women can now take better care of their families and are even contributing by paying their water bills regularly.

Shehzadi Begum shares, "Earlier, our lives revolved around searching for water. We spent our entire day fetching water, often returning home empty-handed. But now, thanks to the Jal Jeevan Mission, we have water at home. This has not only allowed us to take better care of our children and households but also given me the opportunity to pursue sewing work, which has improved our financial stability."





A Symbol of Self-Reliance: The Women of Ichhapur Water Committee

Women of Ichhapur collect ₹1.5 lakh per month: A model of self-sustainability

Village: Ichhapur

District: Burhanpur

State: Madhya Pradesh

In Ichhapur village, Burhanpur district, women have taken the initiative to install taps in nearly 1,500 household water connections, preventing the wastage of millions of liters of drinking water. These women are not only managing the water supply system but also collecting approximately ₹1.5 lakh every month from households as water charges. The operation and maintenance of Jal Jeevan Mission project in the village is fully funded through the collected water charges, making it a model of self-sustainability. The Ichhapur Water Committee takes pride in this achievement, and their sense of self-reliance is evident in their confidence.

Ichhapur is the largest village in Burhanpur district. Although a water supply scheme existed earlier, it was neither sufficient nor regular. Often, the supply was disrupted for months due to minor technical issues. Water scarcity was an annual crisis, especially during summers, forcing women to carry water from distant sources on their heads.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, a retrofit water supply scheme was implemented, providing tap water connections to approximately 2,000 households.

Initially, local community members and Water Committee representatives were unaware of how to operate and maintain the project. To address this, the Public Health Engineering Department, in collaboration with KRC Vibhaavari under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, organized a three-day residential training programme for Water Committee members and village representatives.

During the training, women participants took an oath by tying Raksha Sutas (protective threads), pledging to manage and maintain the village's water supply system themselves. The event was attended by Sarpanch Mrs. Nanda Patil Laxman Pawar.

Following the training, under the leadership of Sarpanch Mrs. Nanda Patil Laxman Pawar, committee members Mrs. Sunita Patil Kailash Patidar, Mrs. Meenakshi Patil Sudhir Prajapati, Mrs. Sheetal Patil Gajanand Pandit, and Mrs. Jyoti Patil Sandeep Deshmukh took on the responsibility of spreading awareness.

Alongside this initiative, the women took charge of collecting water charges in their respective wards. This was no easy task. They had to visit homes repeatedly, explain the cost of water supply operations, and even warn families that non-payment could lead to service disruption.

The VWSC members went door-to-door, educating villagers about water conservation and encouraging them to install taps on their household connections. Their efforts paid off – most villagers installed taps, significantly reducing water wastage. For those unwilling to install taps, wooden stoppers were placed in their pipelines to prevent excessive water flow. As a result, millions of liters of drinking water are now being saved.



Breaking social norms, these women proved that financial management is not just a man's responsibility. In cases where some families persistently refused to pay water charges, a list of 164 defaulters was submitted to the Panchayat, leading to official notices for disconnection.

Impact of the Initiative

- 💧 Ichhapur's water scheme is now on the path to complete self-sustainability.
- 💧 Significant reduction in water wastage.
- 💧 A major step towards women empowerment.
- 💧 Women have set a new benchmark in financial management.

Today, thanks to the relentless efforts of the committee, around ₹1.5 lakh is collected every month. The expenses for pump operators, electricity bills, and system maintenance amount to over ₹1 lakh, all of which are covered through collected charges.

In this way, Ichhapur's tap water project under the Jal Jeevan Mission has become a truly self-sustaining model. The pride of self-reliance shines on the faces of the committee's women members.



Transparency & dedication: A well-organized record of water charge collection by the committee





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Water for all: Unlocking education, defying untouchability

Village: Khargawali
District: Raisen
State: Madhya Pradesh

Savita Kushwaha – the driving force behind change in Khargawali

As it is rightly said, “Adequate safe drinking water and sanitation are as essential for quality education as pencils, books, and teachers.” If sufficient water is available in schools, attendance rates, particularly among girls, will undoubtedly improve.

This reality resonates deeply with Savita Kushwaha, a young girl from Khargawali village in Raisen district, who witnessed a remarkable transformation in her village and school environment after receiving a functional household tap connection under JJM.

Khargawali village, home to 892 residents (460 males and 432 females), had long struggled with water scarcity. The villagers relied on rivers, ponds, and wells, often located 2 km away from their homes, to fetch water. The burden of water collection fell disproportionately on women and young girls, often forcing them to leave their studies to assist their families. Many girls accompanied their parents to fetch water during school hours, and some even dropped out entirely due to the relentless struggle for water.

Savita recounted how, before JJM, household chores were primarily the responsibility of women. Waking up before dawn, collecting water, and managing household duties left them with little to no time for education or personal growth. Young girls were expected to skip classes to help their families, walking miles for water instead of spending time in school.

The biggest hurdle in children’s education, she emphasized, was the lack of water in schools, which led to dirty, unhygienic toilets. Girls, especially, struggled to continue their education as using the unsanitary school toilets became impossible.

She also highlighted that Khargawali village, located on a plateau far from the district headquarters, had faced water shortages for years. But beyond the physical scarcity, there was an equally troubling social barrier – untouchability. The families belonging to lower social classes faced discrimination while accessing water.

Savita says, “With tap water now available in government schools, hygiene has improved, and girls no longer hesitate to attend. Water access has transformed the school environment, ensuring better learning conditions for all. It has also helped reduce social barriers like untouchability.”



They were forced to stand in long queues, waiting for their turn at common water sources, often receiving water only after others had filled theirs. This deep-rooted discrimination intensified conflicts, affecting not just the villagers' mental well-being, but also their health and livelihood.

However, the arrival of piped water rewrote their story.

For Savita, the change was life-altering. With water readily available at home, she could focus on her education. She successfully completed her law degree, something that once seemed impossible due to her daily struggle of carrying heavy pots and buckets. Today, she works as a legal advisor at One Stop Center 'Sakhi' in Raisen, where she helps women and girls in need.

“Clean and safe water is not a privilege; it is our basic right. Jal Jeevan Mission gave us this right, and now I use my time to help other girls attend school regularly and teach them the importance of supporting the poor and the needy,” she said with pride.



Remarkable progress to ensure water to every household. We aim to build on these gains and work even faster to fulfill the dream of “Har Ghar Jal”.

The success of the Jal Jeevan Mission will benefit all sections of society.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



MIZORAM



VWSC members of Mualkhang village

No more thirst, no more divide: Mualkhang's success story

Village: Mualkhang

District: Kolasib

State: Mizoram

Mualkhang, a Har Ghar Jal village, is located in the northern part of Mizoram, under N. Thingdawl RD Block of Kolasib District. Home to 673 residents and 164 households, the village once faced significant challenges in accessing fresh water. However, through the collective spirit of the community and the leadership of local authorities, Mualkhang successfully transformed its water supply system under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), ensuring that every household, school, and Anganwadi center now has access to safe drinking water. Additionally, the village has been declared ODF+, marking a significant step towards improved sanitation and hygiene.

Equitable Water Supply for Every Household

Instead of a 24x7 meter system, Mualkhang village ensures fair and equal access to water by providing 68.32 LPCD from May to January. During February to April, water is distributed uniformly across all households, preventing disputes over availability and ensuring that no one is left behind. This approach reflects the principles of social equality, ensuring that water, a basic necessity, is accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic status.

Water bill collection and expense management are handled systematically. Households with less than two residents contribute Rs. 100 per month, while those with more than two members contribute Rs. 150. This generates a monthly collection of Rs. 13,500, which covers the running costs of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 2,000 for labor work. Additionally, the WATSAN committee deposits Rs. 1,500 into the bank every month, ensuring financial sustainability. The VWSC (Village Water & Sanitation Committee) actively monitors these transactions, demonstrating how community ownership fosters accountability and long-term sustainability.

With the implementation of JJM, 147 households, two schools, and Anganwadi centers in Mualkhang now receive piped water connections. By ensuring equal access to water, JJM has played a crucial role in dismantling traditional inequalities and fostering a more inclusive society.

Transforming Water Management with NRDWP & JJM

A Solar Water Pumping System, successfully installed in 2018 under the NRDWP, has further enhanced access to clean water. With the additional support of JJM, the entire village, including households, schools, and Anganwadi centers, now enjoys a consistent and accessible water supply. This integration of renewable energy with community-driven water management is a testament to how innovation and collective action can bridge long-standing disparities.

Reflecting on this transformation, Mr. Vanlalfaka, Village Council President (VCP) of Mualkhang, shared: "Through the implementation of the JJM Scheme, our village now has a steady and abundant supply of fresh water. Aware of the challenges posed by water shortages, our villagers worked diligently and collaboratively with a strong sense of unity. Today, it is through their collective effort and active participation that we enjoy this reliable fresh water supply."



A mother enjoys the convenience of safe drinking water at her doorstep

Beyond water: JJM as a catalyst for social inclusion

Village: East Lungdar

District: Serchhip

State: Mizoram

Serchhip District, located in the heart of Mizoram, is a landlocked region situated hundreds of meters above sea level. Due to severely dry summers and winters, water scarcity has long been a challenge for the region. The main sources of freshwater are rain-fed perennial rivers and a few non-perennial rivers sustained by surface run-off.

Before JJM, people – regardless of class, caste, gender, or ability, had to fetch water manually from nearby springs or rivers. This physically exhausting task placed an unequal burden on specially-abled individuals, who often had to depend on family members or caregivers for assistance. However, the advent of Har Ghar Jal has transformed lives, ensuring equal access to water and promoting social inclusion.

- 💧 The installation of piped water connections directly to households has eliminated the need to fetch water from distant sources.
- 💧 Specially-abled individuals who once struggled with carrying heavy containers or navigating rough terrain now have easy access to water, significantly reducing their physical burden.
- 💧 With water now available at home, specially-abled individuals no longer have to depend on others to fetch water.
- 💧 Access to clean potable water has reduced the risk of waterborne diseases, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the specially-abled.
- 💧 Improved sanitation and hygiene have further enhanced overall health and well-being, making daily life more manageable and less prone to health complications.
- 💧 JJM has prioritized access for underserved and marginalized groups, including specially-abled individuals.
- 💧 Special considerations have been made to ensure infrastructure accessibility, such as tap placements at heights suitable for wheelchair users, making water access truly inclusive.

Reflecting on this transformation, Pu K. Lalngaizuala, Chairman of the All Mizoram Village Council President (AMVCP) and Village Council President (VCP) of East Lungdar, expressed his appreciation:

Through JJM, East Lungdar has witnessed not just a water revolution but a movement towards social equity and inclusivity. This success story stands as a testament to how access to water can bridge inequalities and uplift every individual, regardless of ability or background.

"Great progress in cleanliness and hygiene, coupled with an abundant water supply, has made daily life easier. On behalf of the community, I humbly extend my compliments to the Government of India and the Mizoram Government for this transformative initiative."



MAHARASHTRA



Source: PHED, Maharashtra

Well, dug by community participation

Tribal community's quest for water self-sufficiency

Village: Kuwakodi

District: Gadchiroli

State: Maharashtra

Kuwakodi, a remote village located 44 km from Bhamragarh block and 190 km from Gadchiroli district headquarters, is home to 24 families of the Madia tribal community, with a total population of 125. It is the last village in Maharashtra near the Chhattisgarh border. The villagers primarily depend on agriculture and the collection of forest products such as gum and Moha flowers. The village is surrounded by dense forests and hills, with no communication facilities, making access to essential services a challenge.

One of the biggest struggles for the community was water scarcity. The only available source was a natural spring, which dried up during the summer months. This created immense difficulties, particularly for women, who spent hours searching for water every day. The relentless struggle for water limited their ability to engage in economic activities, impacting their overall well-being and livelihood.

A Woman Sarpanch Leads the Change

Recognizing the burden faced by women in her village, Sarpanch Somari Sannu Usendi took the initiative to address the crisis. She convened a Gram Sabha meeting and proposed implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to ensure a sustainable water supply. However, the challenge was far from simple. When Zilla Parishad officials attempted to transport a drilling machine to the village, they found it impossible due to the absence of proper roads. Determined not to let this hinder progress, the Sarpanch and villagers decided to take matters into their own hands.

With collective effort, all 24 families worked tirelessly for two months, digging a 30-foot-deep well with their own hands. Their resilience and unity ensured that they could finally secure a water source, reducing the hardship of water collection.

Solar-Powered Tap Water Brings Lasting Change

Following this effort, under the PM-JANMAN (JJM) initiative, a solar-powered tap water supply scheme was implemented, specifically designed for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) habitations. As a result, 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) were provided to all 24 families. Each household now receives 55 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of safe and sustainable drinking water.

Mrs. Somari Sannu Usendi, Sarpanch, says, "Jal Jeevan Mission, conceived by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has become a people's movement in our village, ensuring that every household has access to clean drinking water through pipelines. This has reduced the drudgery of women and girls, who no longer have to struggle for water, and has truly empowered them. I am grateful to the Government and all the villagers for the opportunity to contribute to this scheme as a Sarpanch, and for the capacity-building training that has enabled me to do so."



Source: PHED, Maharashtra

Solar based water supply scheme and beneficiary





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Source: PHED, Maharashtra

Smt. Sujata Balkrushna Gosavi, VWSC president

Women in Self-Help Group ensure sustainability of water supply scheme

Village: Mhapan

District: Sindhudurg

State: Maharashtra

The Mhapan village in Vengurla block, Sindhudurg district, faced significant challenges in managing its tap water supply scheme under the Jal Swarajya Project, established in 2009. The scheme struggled with insufficient management, irregular water distribution, and inadequate maintenance. Additionally, ensuring efficient water bill collection from beneficiaries remained a major hurdle.

Recognizing these challenges, Mrs. Sujata Gosavi and her self-help group, Amritnath Mahila Samuha, took charge of the village's tap water scheme. They entered into an agreement with the Gram Panchayat to manage the system, overseeing tasks such as operating the pump, repairing maintenance issues, recording meter readings, and addressing complaints.

Their proactive approach ensured 100% water bill recovery, as they promptly resolved issues and maintained seamless water supply management. Through their involvement, the women gained valuable skills in managing a public utility, creating financial independence, and strengthening their role within the village. The self-help group transformed into an income-generating unit, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the scheme.

Once burdened by mismanagement, the tap water supply scheme has now become a model of efficiency. With a reliable and sustainable water supply, the villagers have seen a remarkable improvement in their daily lives. Under their leadership, the Amritnath Mahila Samuha has also earned approximately ₹1,70,000, turning water management into an economic venture.

For the women in the group, this journey was more than just managing a utility— it became a pathway to financial independence and empowerment. They gained hands-on experience in operating a water supply scheme, strengthened their economic activity, and established themselves as key contributors to their village's progress and sustainability under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Smt. Sujata Balkrushna Gosavi, VWSC president, says, "We are very happy that we are capably handling an operation of the tap water supply scheme in our village, providing sustainable water supply to all households. By managing this scheme, we gained confidence that many schemes in the state can be handled by the collective efforts of the women as an economic activity."



Source: PHED, Maharashtra

Women Leading Change: The Amritnath Mahila Samuha of Mhapan village takes charge of the Jal Jeevan Mission





MEGHALAYA



The community joins hands to carry pipelines

Gender-centric transformation in Nongkroh Rambrai village

Village: Nongkroh Rambrai

District: West Khasi Hills

State: Meghalaya

Nongkroh Rambrai Village, located in the Rambrai area of West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, lies about 20 kilometers from the district headquarters in Nongstoin. On 18 May 2021, the augmentation of the village's water supply system was sanctioned under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) with a funding amount of ₹2.47 Crore. This initiative, guided by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), aimed to provide functional tap connections to 283 households, as per the Village Action Plan (VAP) formulated during the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

However, as the project progressed, the number of households increased, with 67 additional families bringing the total to around 350. Like many other villages in the Rambrai area, Nongkroh Rambrai initially faced multiple challenges, including confusion about the 5% Beneficiary Contribution, which became a major hurdle in getting the project off the ground.

Despite these setbacks, the project moved forward, thanks to the relentless efforts of the Junior Engineer and field staff. They engaged the community in awareness meetings, explaining the key components of JJM and the role of the VWSC in ensuring the scheme's success. Transparent communication and continuous engagement helped build trust, allowing the project to progress smoothly.

Women at the Forefront of Change

A remarkable aspect of the JJM implementation in Nongkroh Rambrai has been the active participation of women. Traditionally, community decisions were dominated by men, with women having limited involvement in governance and public projects. However, through persistent awareness efforts and the collective leadership of the Durbar Shnong (village council), a historic decision was made – to involve every community member, including women, in the implementation of JJM.

The village council unanimously agreed that women would actively participate not just in discussions but also in the physical tasks of laying pipelines, which were part of the Beneficiary Contribution. This decision broke long-standing social barriers, transforming women from passive beneficiaries to active contributors in the project.

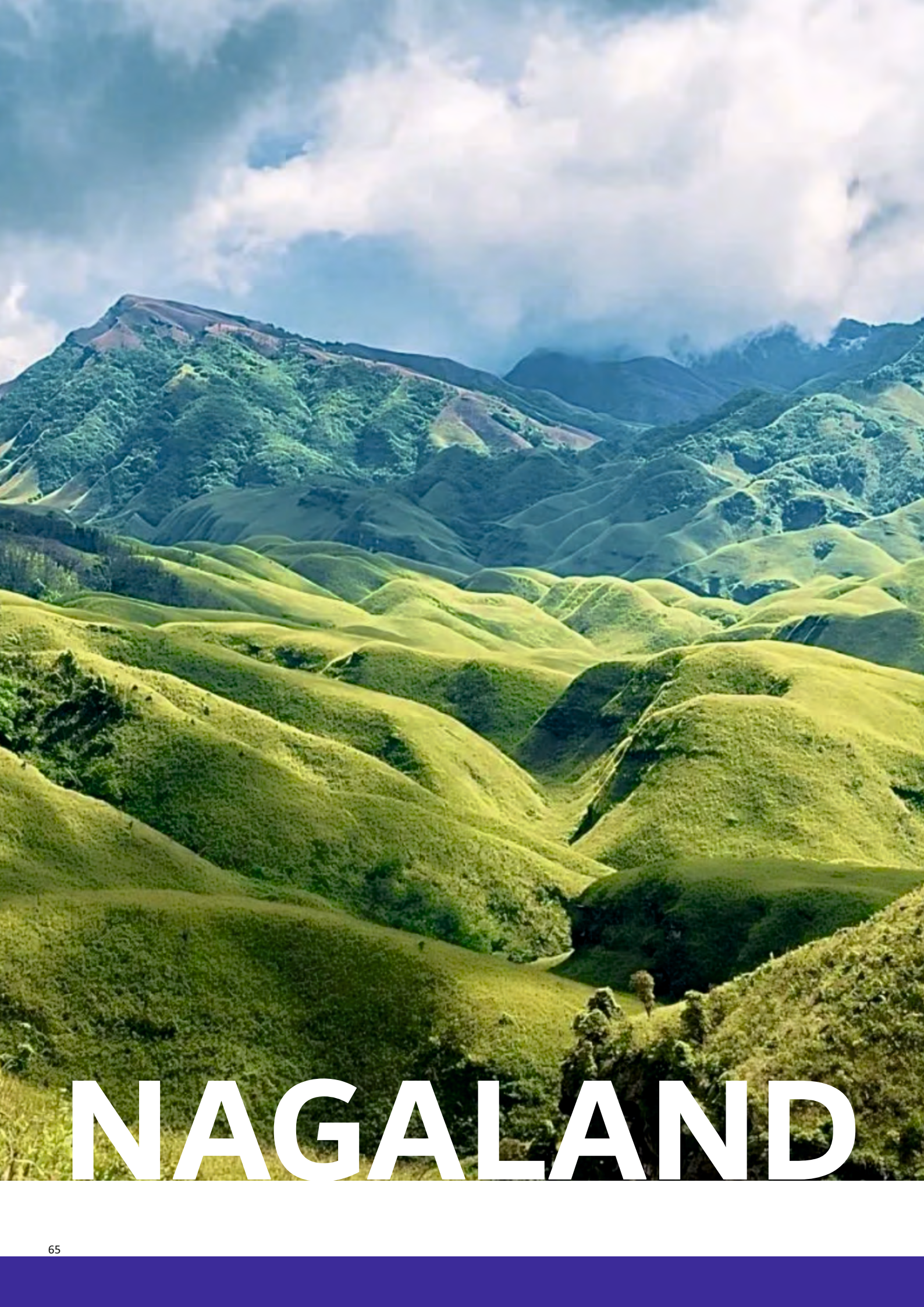
As a result, the implementation of the scheme has been successfully completed and is awaiting Har Ghar Jal certification. More than just improving access to clean water, this transformation has empowered women. This shift towards gender inclusion is a crucial step toward ensuring sustainable development, where women play an integral role in their village's growth and prosperity.

Shri Arnest Lyngkhoi, Sordar Shnong (Headman) says,

"As village leaders, we express our deepest gratitude to the government for bringing the JJM scheme to our community. Through this initiative, we now have access to clean drinking water in every household, bringing immense benefits to our people. We also appreciate the efforts of the PHE Department for their efficiency in implementing the project, addressing our long-standing water crisis, and ensuring its timely completion. We are truly delighted by this transformation."



Glimpses of people participation during the implementation of JJM scheme



NAGALAND



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Villagers collecting water from a functional household tap

Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

Community champions: Leading the way in water conservation and access

Village: Pyangsa
District: Wokha
State: Nagaland

Pyangsa Village, nestled in Wokha District, lies about 60 km from Wokha town and is home to approximately 825 residents. Agriculture, particularly rice farming and rubber plantations, forms the backbone of the village economy. However, like many remote villages, Pyangsa struggled with severe water shortages, affecting daily life and productivity. The implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) brought transformative and sustainable change, providing much-needed relief to the community. Before the introduction of JJM, Pyangsa faced significant challenges. The primary water source, the distant Doyang River, required villagers to embark on strenuous and time-consuming daily treks to fetch water. The rough terrain also posed physical risks, making the journey even more challenging. Water scarcity severely impacted agriculture, the primary livelihood of the villagers. Unreliable and insufficient water supply led to inconsistent crop yields, affecting food security and household income. Previous attempts to pump water from natural wells or establish storage tanks had failed due to inadequate infrastructure, technical challenges, and seasonal depletion of water sources. The lack of clean, readily available water also affected hygiene and health in the village. With limited access, hygiene practices were often compromised, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and other health issues. The community urgently needed a sustainable, accessible water supply to improve health, sanitation, and overall well-being.

Community Participation: The Key to Success

For JJM to have a meaningful and lasting impact in Pyangsa, community involvement was crucial. The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) collaborated with the local Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committee, ensuring that villagers' needs and feedback were central to the project's planning and execution. This participatory approach fostered a sense of ownership and trust among the villagers. PHED also conducted hands-on training sessions, equipping villagers with technical skills in maintenance, repair, and water management. Training covered plumbing, electrical repairs, system monitoring, and best practices in hygiene and sanitation, aligning with JJM guidelines. These sessions empowered villagers to take an active role in managing and maintaining their water supply infrastructure. Beyond training, villagers participated in the construction and development process, including pipeline installation and reservoir construction. This collective effort turned the project into a shared responsibility, fostering collaboration and accountability. The inclusive approach of PHED transformed skepticism into confidence, ensuring the long-term success of JJM in Pyangsa.

The Impact of JJM in Pyangsa Village

Under JJM, PHED and the community successfully implemented a robust water supply network, including multiple storage reservoirs and a reliable pipeline system. As a result:

- 💧 Every household in Pyangsa now has access to a safe and consistent water supply.
- 💧 Public health has improved significantly, with reduced cases of waterborne diseases.
- 💧 Time previously spent on water collection is now directed towards education, household activities, and economic pursuits.
- 💧 Women and children have greater opportunities for education and skill development.
- 💧 Agricultural activities have stabilized, boosting food security and livelihoods.

The transformation of Pyangsa Village under JJM is a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives supported by technical expertise. Through active participation and skill development, the village has secured a sustainable water source, improving its quality of life and economic resilience. Pyangsa now stands as a model for rural water sustainability, demonstrating the pivotal role of community engagement and infrastructure development in creating lasting impact.



Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

Villagers of Pyangsa actively participate in a workshop on water quality



Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

Jal Jeevan Mission water supply infrastructure



Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

Women collecting water from a functional household tap



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Jotsoma's water success: A model for rural transformation

Village: Jotsoma
Block: Kohima
State: Nagaland

Infrastructure development under JJM tapping into Jotsoma's perennial water sources

Jotsoma village, declared a Har Ghar Jal village in 2024, is situated 8 km from Kohima, the state capital, under Kohima Block. Known for its scenic beauty, cool climate, and abundant water sources, the village is home to the Angami Naga tribe, with a population of 3,863 across 800 households. The village has six khels (clans) and boasts educational institutions, Anganwadi centers, churches, and a community hall.

Despite being blessed with perennial water sources like the Dzuna River, water accessibility remained a challenge for many households, particularly those unable to afford private pipelines. The implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has transformed the village, ensuring that every household has access to functional tap water connections (FHTCs) and significantly improving health, sanitation, and overall well-being.

Challenges Before JJM

Although Jotsoma had a reliable water source, the lack of proper reservoirs, storage, and distribution infrastructure led to disparities in access. Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), water was available, but household tap connections were not provided, leaving low-income families dependent on the village's main storage tank. While wealthier households could afford private pipelines, many villagers, especially those without financial means, struggled to access water, creating inequities in distribution. The absence of a structured and inclusive water supply system meant that some households continued to experience water scarcity despite abundant sources.

With the implementation of JJM in 2019-2020, Jotsoma village underwent a complete overhaul of its water infrastructure. The project focused on:

- 💧 Tapping existing water sources efficiently
- 💧 Constructing main reservoir tanks, sub-reservoirs, and distribution tanks
- 💧 Installing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in every household

These efforts ensured equitable water distribution, providing regular, clean, and potable water to all residents. With JJM under the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Kohima Urban Division, life in Jotsoma has become less arduous, healthier, and more convenient. The incidence of waterborne diseases has significantly declined, improving community health and sanitation.

The success of JJM in Jotsoma was made possible through collaborative efforts involving PHED technical team and support staff; Village Council and WATSAN Committee; Field Testing Kit (FTK) users and Swachhagrahis; Self-Help Groups, student bodies, and women organizations

Gender-Centric Impact

A key component of JJM's inclusiveness is its mandate of 50% women representation in Water and Sanitation Committees. This has empowered women to take on leadership roles, marking a shift from exclusion to active participation in decision-making.



Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

Training session on water quality monitoring, equipping women with essential skills for water safety

Previously, women in Jotsoma were excluded from discussions, with their roles limited to serving tea and snacks during meetings. However, under JJM, women are now actively engaged in planning, implementation, and key decision-making processes. The villagers, engaged in paddy farming and horticulture, have benefited immensely from JJM, as clean water ensures better irrigation and household sustainability. Women farmers now earn steady incomes, cultivating chillies, tomatoes, garlic, cabbage, beans, fruits, and flowers, which are sold in local markets. Their organic produce is highly valued, ensuring sustained economic empowerment for the community.

Ensuring Water Quality: WQMS and Village-Level Monitoring

To maintain safe and potable water supply, the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) system has been implemented at the village level. Field Testing Kit (FTK) users regularly test water samples, with supervision from the District Laboratory, ensuring that water remains clean and safe for consumption.



Source: WSSO PHED, Nagaland

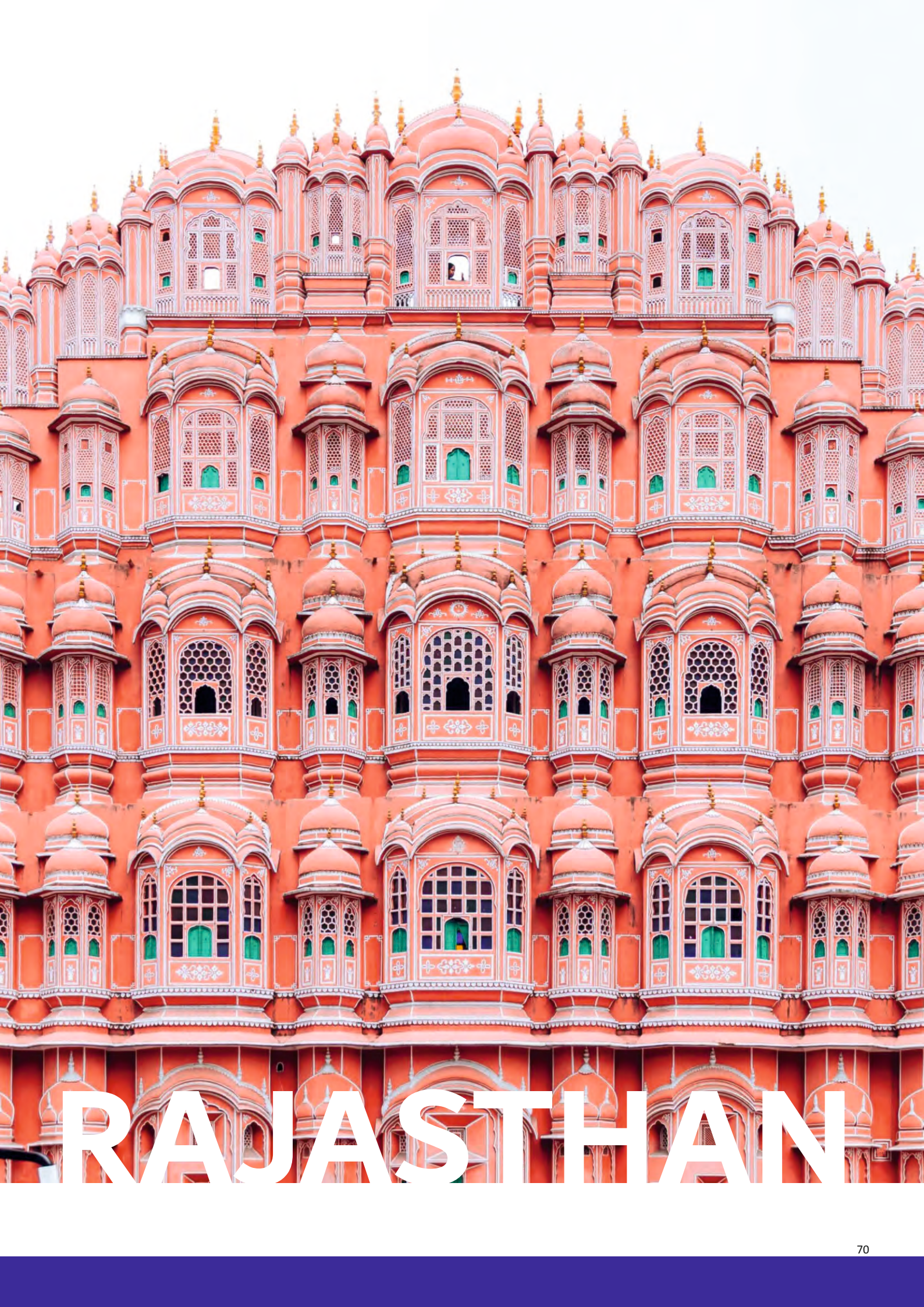
Women of Jotsoma actively participating in a Jal Jeevan Mission workshop, reinforcing their role in water governance and sanitation management

Additionally, mass sanitation drives have been organized to instill a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility. Mr. Vithato Nakhro, Chairman of the WATSAN Committee, has been a key driver of JJM's success in Jotsoma. He says, "JJM has transformed life in Jotsoma, making clean drinking water accessible to all. The initiative has enhanced public health, empowered women, strengthened local governance, and promoted economic sustainability."

To ensure long-term sustainability, the WATSAN Committee has implemented:

- 💧 A nominal water charge of ₹20 per household for maintenance
- 💧 A sanitation service fee of ₹100 per household for O&M
- 💧 A well-maintained asset register for record-keeping
- 💧 Regular plumbing and infrastructure upkeep
- 💧 Quarterly community social work for hygiene and cleanliness
- 💧 Scheduled cleaning of village reservoirs





RAJASTHAN



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Empowering girls and households:
A significant contribution of JJM

A wave of social change in Akali village on the Indo-Pak border

Village: Akali
District: Barmer
State: Rajasthan

One of the last villages on the India-Pakistan border in Barmer district, Akali has long witnessed struggles due to severe water scarcity. This issue was not just about survival; it deeply impacted the social fabric of the village.

There was a time when the day for women and young girls in Akali began with walking several kilometers to fetch water, and this struggle continued throughout the day. The acute water crisis also made matrimonial alliances difficult—no one wanted to marry their daughters into a village where even drinking water was hard to find.

An elderly resident, Bhartha Ram, recalls, "In villages where government water supply was available, people refused to marry their daughters into Akali. We had to arrange marriages in villages facing similar conditions, such as Kerkori, Sundra, Rohidi, Khabdala, and Barmer Wala."

However, the situation has now completely changed. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, every household in this village now has access to piped drinking water for the first time. This transformation was made possible by laying 12,052 meters of pipeline and implementing a ₹601 crore Narmada Canal-based drinking water project.

Today, the scenario has changed completely. Water from the Narmada River, originating from the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat, now travels 700 kilometers to reach Akali. Earlier, villagers depended on beris (traditional water pits), which were not only unhygienic but also caused frequent illnesses. With clean drinking water now available, the village has overcome decades of hardship.

With the implementation of JJM, the social stigma surrounding Akali has also started fading. Now, villagers no longer hear the words, "There is no water in your village; we cannot form an alliance with you."

Ukaram, a resident of Akali, shares his emotions: "The joy of getting Narmada water cannot be put into words. Our village is no longer left behind."

Sonaram Beniwal, the Chief Engineer of the Narmada Canal-based drinking water project, states: "For the first time since India's independence, Jal Jeevan Mission has connected every household in this village with piped water. This is not just about water; it is about strengthening the social structure of the village."

Gender-Centric Impact

A key component of JJM's inclusiveness is its mandate of 50% women representation in Water and Sanitation Committees. This has empowered women to take on leadership roles, marking a shift from exclusion to active participation in decision-making.

Sixty-year-old Jhima Devi recalls the past struggles: "Earlier, there was no proper water supply. Fetching water was an exhausting task. We never imagined that Akali would get water one day. Who would want to marry their daughter into a village without water?"



Source: PHED, Rajasthan

The young generation now has access to clean water, ensuring their health and future



Source: PHED, Rajasthan

Tap water supply in every home has transformed the lives of women



Source: PHED, Rajasthan

A ray of hope in the desert: The impact of JJM in Akali village



Nathulal Gameti with his father

Relief through JJM: The story of Nathulal Gameti

Village: Losing Ka Dhana

District: Udaipur

State: Rajasthan

Nathulal Gameti, who has been physically disabled since birth, has always struggled with daily activities. His village, Losing Ka Dhana, faced severe drinking water scarcity. The village had only one government tube well, located half a kilometer away, and villagers had to navigate a challenging, sloped terrain to fetch water.

Nathulal's father, Gopilal Gameti, explains that fetching water consumed significant time, preventing him from earning a daily wage. As a result, the family struggled financially. Since Nathulal was unable to fetch water himself, the burden fell entirely on his aging parents.

With the Jal Jeevan Mission, their hardships have eased, as clean drinking water is now available at home through a tap connection. Water supply is now timely and consistent, ensuring the family's basic needs are met.

Gopilal is now able to focus on his work, improving the family's financial condition. Nathulal is overjoyed at having access to clean water at home. He expresses his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rajasthan government for this life-changing initiative.

Jal Jeevan Mission has not only solved the water crisis but has also given this family hope and self-sufficiency.

In the words of Nathulal, "पेली पानी नी आवतो अबे जो जल जीवन मिशन आयो वंडे केडे पाणी रो आनंद आई ग्यो." (The water didn't come before... but look, ever since Jal Jeevan Mission came, there is joy everywhere with water flowing abundantly.)

From Struggle to Solution: Nathulal Gameti and his father once faced a tough challenge in fetching water, but now every home has a tap connection, making their lives easier and more dignified.





The main OHT, Surasar

No longer parched: Surasar's leap forward

Village: Surasar
District: Bikaner
State: Rajasthan

Located 62 kilometers from Bikaner district headquarters and 30 kilometers from Pugal block headquarters, Surasar village is home to approximately 1,500 people and 4,000-5,000 livestock. The village consists of various communities, and Mrs. Azmat serves as the village Sarpanch.

Previously, Surasar faced severe water shortages. Although the village was connected to a PHED P&T Scheme, it relied on a single Ground Level Reservoir (GLR) for water supply.

- 💧 Villagers had to carry water in pots, buckets, and pitchers.
- 💧 Camel carts were used to transport water.
- 💧 The entire village depended on a single water source, leading to long queues.
- 💧 A separate drinking water pond for livestock further strained the already scarce water supply.

Since the village relied on animal husbandry and agriculture, water scarcity often led to economic and social challenges.

Women Leading Water Conservation Efforts

As the village Sarpanch, Mrs. Azmat, a woman herself, took the initiative to raise awareness about water conservation. She actively engaged with women in the village to spread the message of water conservation and management.

Key Steps Taken Under the Jal Jeevan Mission

Work	Project Scope	Status
Construction of Overhead Tank	1 unit, 150 KL	Completed
Main Rising Pipeline	6 km	Completed
Village Distribution Pipeline	11 km	Completed
Proposed Water Connections	300 connections	Completed

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, 300 households in Surasar now have domestic tap water connections, ensuring access to safe drinking water.

- 💧 Women save 4-5 hours daily that were earlier spent fetching water.
- 💧 Previously, families spent ₹1000-1500 per month on tanker water, which is no longer necessary.
- 💧 Waterborne diseases like stomach ailments and dental issues have significantly reduced.
- 💧 The overall quality of life, social standing, and economic stability of the villagers has improved.



Sixty-year-old Jhima Devi recalls the past struggles: "Earlier, there was no proper water supply. Fetching water was an exhausting task. We never imagined that Akali would get water one day. Who would want to marry their daughter into a village without water?"

Villagers' Testimonials

"Earlier, we suffered from waterborne diseases, but now we have clean water and better health." - Mr. Gulsher, Sarpanch Representative

"Fetching water used to be a struggle, but now we get clean drinking water at home. The entire village is happy!" - Mrs. Shaira Bano, Villager

"With Jal Jeevan Mission, every home now has water, and the entire village has been transformed." - Mr. Bhawani Singh, Villager



A stream of hope in the desert: The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission





TRIPURA



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A village reborn: The power of water in changing lives

Village: Durgapur
District: Khowai
State: Tripura

Smt. Gita Rani Das, the Panchayat Pradhan of Durgapur village

Approximately 35 years ago, I arrived in this village as a new bride. The environment was entirely different from what it is today. We relied on the KANCHA KUA (informal well) for all our water needs—cooking, drinking, and washing,” recalled Smt. Gita Rani Das, the Panchayat Pradhan of Durgapur village, Khowai district, Tripura, when asked to speak on the importance of safe drinking water.

Durgapur spans 3.63 square kilometers and is home to 2,567 residents – 1,277 males and 1,290 females. The village has a diverse social composition, with 482 from Scheduled Tribes (ST), 785 from Scheduled Castes (SC), 458 from Other Backward Classes (OBC), and 842 from other categories. Notably, the Pradhan herself belongs to the SC community. The Panchayat is governed by nine members, including four from the SC category, three from the general category, and two from the ST community.

The Struggle for Water

"We had to travel over half a mile to collect water, which was quite a task. Those residing in the hillocks had to descend seventy-two steps and then climb back up, carrying only two pots of water at a time. This meant multiple trips throughout the day," Gita Rani explained.

Fetching water was primarily women's and children's responsibility, as men were engaged in earning a livelihood. During the paddy cultivation season, the burden was even greater. The limited number of ponds further exacerbated the crisis. This struggle affected not only household chores but also women's participation in economic activities, such as managing rubber plantations, agriculture, or supporting children's education. The prevalence of waterborne diseases made matters worse, turning access to clean water into a daily battle.

A New Dawn: 'Har Ghar Jal' in Durgapur

Today, Durgapur village proudly holds the 'Har Ghar Jal' certificate, with every household and institution covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The long-standing water scarcity is now a thing of the past.

"While we now have access to water, ensuring its sustainability is our next challenge," said Gita Rani. Under her leadership, this concern is actively discussed in Gram Sabhas (village meetings). She has taken the initiative to educate villagers on the judicious use of treated water, stressing the need to prevent wastage.

When asked about her thoughts on the Jal Jeevan Mission, she responded simply: "Bhalo" (Good). What does 'Bhalo' mean? "Bhalo means Khub Bhalo (Very Good)! My daughter-in-law and her peers no longer suffer as we once did. It is now our responsibility to maintain and safeguard this progress."





UTTAR PRADESH



Kusma's smile of freedom

The flow of water brings liberation

Village: Niswapur

District: Jalaun

State: Uttar Pradesh

Niswapur, a small village located about 74 kilometers from the district headquarters in Jalaun's Kadaura block, Uttar Pradesh, is now recognised as a Har Ghar Jal village. With every household with access to clean tap water, a change made possible by the Jal Jeevan Mission, Niswapur has seen a transformation that was once unbelievable. The long walks, endless disputes, and exhausting waits for water are now memories of the past. For Kusma, a Dalit woman, this change has been nothing short of life-altering. She had spent years battling the burden of water scarcity, a struggle that shaped every aspect of her life. Like countless women in Bundelkhand, she would start her day before sunrise, walking long distances with heavy pots balanced on her head.

The journey was treacherous – uneven, muddy roads made every step a challenge. She had slipped many times, sometimes losing the hard-earned water she had just collected. Fetching water wasn't just physically draining; it robbed Kusma of opportunities. As a daily-wage labourer, she depended on work to support her family. But most days, the hours lost in collecting water left her too exhausted to go to work. On days she did, she was often late, missing out on wages. The strain on her family deepened. Providing for her children became an uphill battle, with basic needs often left unmet.

Water, an essential need, had become a constant source of hardship.

With Jal Jeevan Mission, her life changed drastically. For the first time in her life, Kusma no longer had to walk for water. She no longer had to weigh the decision between collecting water and earning a livelihood. With a functional tap at home, she could now go to work regularly, ensuring a steady income for her family. Her children were no longer forced to wait for her to return from the long, tiring walks just to have water for basic needs. The change brought not just ease but dignity. Beyond her home, the village has seen a transformation.

The Gram Pradhan calls JJM a blessing, highlighting how regular water supply has eased lives and reduced conflicts. With two hours of water every morning and evening, exceeding the standard requirement, the village has even redirected funds from handpump maintenance to other development initiatives. But for Kusma, the change is personal. The burden she carried for years has lifted. The time lost has been reclaimed. Her life is no longer dictated by the scarcity of water. She is no longer just surviving – she is living.

"This has changed my life in ways I never imagined. I have time to work, time for my children, and time for myself. I feel free." Kusma shares.





Happy and Carefree Lakshmi with Piped Water Supply

Source: SWSM, Uttar Pradesh

Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking the cycle of hair loss

Village: Niswapur

District: Jalaun

State: Uttar Pradesh

For years, women in Kakoriya village, Lalitpur district, Bundelkhand, struggled with an unusual yet distressing problem – thinning hair and bald patches. It is hard to imagine that water, not because of its quality but because of its unavailability, could be the cause of hair loss. Yet, for these women, the weight of water scarcity was quite literally etched onto their scalps.

Hairs have, from time immemorial, been a symbol of beauty and femininity, which is why growing bald patches troubled the women of the village immensely. As more women began noticing the same issue, the villagers started searching for answers. That's when they realized the culprit – years of carrying heavy pitchers on their heads during long, gruelling treks to fetch water had led to severe hair loss. The trauma of losing their crowning glory was palpable. Many poets had glorified hair as a woman's ultimate adornment, yet these women were losing theirs – not to age or illness, but to the sheer burden of water scarcity.

For years, the women of Kakoriya would wake before dawn, prepare for their daily chore, and set out on their exhausting journey. The scorching sun, the relentless weight of the pitchers, and the never-ending distance took a toll not just on their bodies, but also on their hair. The constant friction and tension caused their hair to thin, leaving bald patches and diminishing their confidence. Lakshmi, a resident of Kakoriya village, was among those who suffered this pain. Covering her head became a necessity rather than a tradition. ***“For me, the practice of putting a ‘pallu’ on my head had become a compulsion. People also started distancing themselves from me as if I was suffering from a disease,” she recalls.***

She had resigned herself to this fate, believing that the struggle for water, and its consequences, would never change. ***“Had this water problem not existed, I wouldn't have become a victim of baldness,” she says.***

But the Jal Jeevan Mission brought a transformation she had never dared to hope for. ***“I had never expected that I would ever see a solution to water scarcity. But the Jal Jeevan Mission has been a boon, bringing happiness into our lives. The coming generation will not go bald, for now, they won't need to balance pitchers on their heads.”***

With water now readily available at her doorstep, Lakshmi feels a renewed sense of confidence. “I feel empowered, and my confidence has been restored. No one will have to endure the hardships that we once faced,” she says.



Source: SWSM, Uttarakhand

Lakshmi with water-filled pitcher on her head in Kakoriya village





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Breaking the chains of disease in Labkani

Village: Labkani
District: Deoria
State: Uttar Pradesh

Neha Bharti with her brother Neeraj, who is battling the aftermath of illness

In the quaint village of Labkani, nestled in Deoria district, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, residents have long struggled with the devastating effects of consuming polluted water. The contaminated village water source wreaked havoc on families, leading to severe health consequences.

Among the affected families was Neha Bharti’s, whose 15-year-old brother, Neeraj, suffered from brain fever. **“After his illness, he was never the same. His health and behavior changed drastically,”** Neha recalled, her voice trembling with emotion. The fever left Neeraj with severe cognitive and physical impairments, frequent seizures, and a sharp decline in memory and concentration. The Bharti family sought medical help from multiple hospitals and doctors, but Neeraj’s condition remained unchanged. **“We tried everything, from medication to therapy, but nothing seemed to work,”** Neha said, reflecting on the heartbreaking struggle.

The villagers of Labkani strongly believed that their drinking water was the root cause of Neeraj’s illness. “We had no choice but to drink from the same contaminated source,” Neha said.

Eastern Uttar Pradesh has historically been plagued by Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). In 2005, the deaths of over 6,000 children due to these diseases shook the Parliament, with Gorakhpur as the epicenter. That year alone, 1,400 children lost their lives. Over the years, the situation worsened, and by 2017, the death toll had surpassed 50,000.

However, a remarkable transformation has taken place. In 2022 and 2023, only one death each was reported in Bahraich and Kushinagar, while no JE-related deaths occurred anywhere else. AES cases declined by 99%, and in 2024, zero deaths were recorded.

Acute Encephalitis Syndrome(AES)														
Year	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Districts	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Gorakhpur	451	38	316	15	235	14	251	15	97	3	112	2	24	0
Basti	180	13	91	11	70	3	59	0	50	2	46	0	21	0
Maharajganj	244	18	196	15	174	12	178	9	88	4	85	2	18	0
Bahraich	112	18	38	5	50	3	21	1	28	1	57	1	22	0
Balrampur	34	1	21	2	18	0	15	0	26	0	17	0	1	0
Siddhartha Nagar	168	22	111	4	114	4	95	3	75	2	64	1	11	0
Kushi Nagar	302	37	287	13	298	17	299	11	146	5	140	5	34	0
Sant Kabir Nagar	127	9	84	1	102	2	104	2	67	0	66	0	19	0



Acute Encephalitis Syndrome(AES)														
Year	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Districts	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Gorakhpur	39	3	33	4	14	2	14	0	17	0	6	0	0	0
Basti	23	0	14	0	6	1	6	0	7	0	3	0	0	0
Maharajganj	60	3	44	4	7	2	16	2	12	1	16	0	4	0
Bahraich	21	4	6	1	4	0	4	0	7	0	4	1	2	0
Balrampur	6	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	6	0	0	0
Siddhartha Nagar	20	4	5	0	7	0	4	1	7	0	5	0	0	0
Kushi Nagar	23	2	22	0	19	2	28	1	9	0	12	1	0	0
Sant Kabir Nagar	9	0	13	1	7	0	7	0	4	0	9	0	1	0

A comparative data of the Uttar Pradesh Health Department from the year 2018 to 2024 shows a drastic decline in cases and deaths due to JE and AES

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been a game changer in controlling waterborne diseases. Clean drinking water is now reaching every rural household, significantly reducing the spread of JE, AES, and other infections. A comparative analysis by the Uttar Pradesh Health Department (2018-2024) reveals a drastic decline in JE and AES cases due to the availability of clean water. The health department attributes this success to improved hydration, reduced exposure to contaminants, and stronger immune systems in rural populations. Data from Sanchari Rog Vibhag highlights the fluctuating outbreak of waterborne diseases over the years:

Outbreak of Water Borne Diseases		
Year	Total Cases	Total Deaths
2019	443480	17
* 2020 (covid effected year)	60345	0
* 2021 (covid effected year)	28449	13
* 2022 (covid effected year)	42546	25
2023	38026	11
2024	7638	5

Source: Health Department - Sanchari Rog Vibhag

This sharp decline underscores the vital role safe drinking water plays in disease prevention. Jal Jeevan Mission has accelerated the provision of functional household tap connections across districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. For Neha Bharti and her family, Jal Jeevan Mission has been a life-changer. “Now that every household has access to clean drinking water, we hope no other family will have to endure the suffering we did,” she said with a newfound sense of relief.



WEST BENGAL



Shri Sunil Kundu

Source: PHED West Bengal

For Sunil Kundu, It is the end of a daily struggle

Village: Kantapahari

District: Bankura

State: West Bengal

For most people, turning on a tap and watching water flow is an everyday act, so simple that it goes unnoticed. But for Sunil Kundu, a 45-year-old resident of Chhatna Block in Bankura, West Bengal, this was once an impossible dream.

Born with a physical disability, Sunil had long been accustomed to struggle. With no steady source of income, he and his wife lived in extreme poverty, navigating each day with uncertainty. Yet, among the many hardships they faced, one challenge defined their existence – the daily battle for clean water.

Every morning, Sunil braced himself for an exhausting journey, dragging his weakened body over long distances to fetch water from a tube well or a dug well. Each step was a test of endurance. The water he collected was often unsafe, leading to frequent illnesses, but there was no alternative. Survival meant enduring the pain.

Sunil's plight was not unique. Across Bankura district, many people with disabilities faced the same grim reality – basic necessities, like safe drinking water, remained beyond their reach. What others took for granted was, for them, a daily test of resilience. But hope arrived in the form of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The announcement of the project brought a flicker of optimism, but after years of struggle, Sunil found it hard to believe change was truly coming.

Then, the transformation unfolded before his eyes – pipes were laid, water connections installed, and one day, clean water flowed directly into his home. Overcome with relief, Sunil expressed his gratitude:

For the first time, Sunil and his wife no longer had to fear waterborne diseases or endure the daily torment of fetching water. Their lives had been transformed with dignity and ease.

Sunil's story is one of many. Across his village, women who once spent hours walking for water could now focus on their families and livelihoods. Children could attend school without disruptions. Clean water was no longer a luxury – it was a right, finally fulfilled.

“আমি ভাষায় প্রকাশ করতে পারবো না আমার আনন্দ। এতদিন যে শারীরিক এবং মানসিক কষ্ট সহ্য করেছি, এখন তার অবসান হলো। জল আনতে আর কষ্ট করতে হবে না। সরকারের এই উদ্যোগের জন্য আমি চিরকৃতজ্ঞ।”

(I cannot express my happiness in words. The physical and mental agony I endured for years has finally ended. I no longer have to struggle for water. I am forever grateful to the government for this initiative.)



Chhatna Block now stands as a testament to the power of Jal Jeevan Mission, with 100% of households receiving piped water. The initiative has done more than provide access to a basic resource – it has restored dignity, security, and improved health across the community.



Tap water has brought ease of living





Source: PHED West Bengal

Nasima is happy that she can now focus on her zari work without worrying about water

Water as a tool of liberation for Nasima

Village: Ghoram

District: Uttar Dinajpur

State: West Bengal

In Uttar Ghorama village, Dharampur I panchayat, Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal, life was a daily struggle for Nasima Khatun. Like many women in her village, she bore the dual burden of managing her household and sustaining her family through zari work, a traditional craft that demanded both time and precision. But amid all her responsibilities, one challenge loomed large—the relentless struggle for water.

For years, Nasima and her fellow villagers depended on a hand pump as their primary water source. It was unreliable at best, often broken, running dry, or in constant need of repairs. When it failed, they had no choice but to seek water from neighbouring households, adding to their hardship. This uncertainty dictated their daily routines, consuming valuable hours and leaving them exhausted before the day had even begun.

For Nasima, the water crisis was more than just an inconvenience; it was a barrier to progress. Every moment spent fetching water was time lost from her zari work, her only source of income. With scarce water, household chores took longer, and her ability to focus on earning a livelihood was severely restricted. The weight of this daily struggle grew heavier, limiting her potential and keeping her trapped in a cycle of unending labour. When a piped water supply system was installed in her village under the Jal Jeevan Mission, life took a transformative turn. No longer at the mercy of an unreliable hand pump or dependent on others, Nasima now had clean water flowing directly to her home.

The impact was immediate and profound. With the simple act of turning on a tap, she reclaimed hours of her day, time that she could now devote to her craft. The burden that once drained her energy was lifted, and her productivity soared. With water readily available, she was able to weave more zari clothes than ever before, securing a better income for her family.

But the benefits of accessible clean water extended far beyond economic empowerment. The relief of not having to struggle for every drop of water brought Nasima an immeasurable sense of peace and freedom. She no longer had to worry about broken pumps, long walks, or dependency on others.

Nasima's journey a story of resilience, perseverance, and the remarkable impact that a basic necessity can have on an individual's life. As she continues to thrive, she inspires her fellow villagers, proving that when communities are empowered with essential resources, progress is not just possible, it is inevitable.

"I am experiencing a newfound ease of life, where the daily uncertainties of water collection were replaced with stability and self-reliance. The transformation was not just about water; it was about dignity, independence, and hope."





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A content Smt. Maya

Not just a drop: Water as a feminist force

Village: Barabarua

District: Uttar Dinajpur

State: West Bengal

In the serene village of Barabarua, nestled within the Barua Gram Panchayat of Raigunj Block, Uttar Dinajpur, tradition and daily survival shaped the lives of its residents. For generations, women like Maya Das bore the invisible weight of unpaid labour, managing households, fetching water, and contributing to their family's livelihood – all without recognition.

Water, a basic necessity, had long been a source of struggle. The village relied on dug wells, forcing women to spend hours fetching water, often at the cost of their own aspirations. The contaminated water led to frequent illnesses, adding to their burden and keeping them trapped in an unending cycle of labour and dependency.

But then came a shift – one that quietly but powerfully broke social barriers.

The arrival of piped water under the Jal Jeevan Mission was more than just an infrastructural change; it was a step toward liberation. With clean water flowing directly into homes, women like Maya no longer had to devote hours fetching water, nor did they have to depend on male family members or negotiate with neighbouring households for access to a basic necessity.

With freedom from water collection, Maya and many women in Barabarua could focus more on income-generating work – whether it was tending to crops, driving totes, or working in tea plantations. The shift challenged traditional roles that confined women to unpaid household work.

"With better health, we can now concentrate on our work. We earn more, we contribute more, and we are no longer seen just as helpers—we are providers too," Maya shares.

The impact rippled beyond individual households. As women's productivity increased, household incomes improved, and so did their social standing. No longer limited to their homes, women gained a stronger voice in decision-making, an active role in the village's economic life, and a sense of dignity that had long been denied to them. With freedom from water collection, Maya and many women in Barabarua could focus more on income-generating work – whether it was tending to crops, driving totes, or working in tea plantations. The shift challenged traditional roles that confined women to unpaid household work.

Maya recalls the transformation: "Before the Jal Jeevan Mission, fetching water consumed our time and energy. It was our job, whether we were sick, busy, or exhausted. Now, with piped water, our lives have changed. We have the time and strength to do more – beyond just survival."



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The success of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Barabarua is etched in the confidence of its women. No longer bound by the physical and social constraints of water scarcity, they have reclaimed control over their time and choices.

Maya expresses her gratitude, not just for the convenience of piped water, but for the change it represents: "We are thankful for this gift of clean water. It has not only quenched our thirst but has given us something we never thought we could have – independence. Our village is no longer just surviving; we are moving forward."



Let us work together to provide safe drinking water to every household and thus achieve drinking water security for our future generation.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



40



Source: PHED West Bengal

Lives have changed with convenience of tap connection in the premises

Beyond survival: How water gave Ratna the freedom to teach

Village: Poaltair
District: Uttar Dinajpur
State: West Bengal

In Poaltair, a remote village in Naoda Gram Panchayat, Uttar Dinajpur, Ratna Mandal was no stranger to hardship. Balancing household chores while giving tuition to local children, she sought to support her family amid financial struggles. But one challenge constantly stood in her way—water scarcity. Without a water source at home, Ratna spent 3 to 4 hours daily fetching water from a distant tube well. The time lost in this essential yet exhausting task limited her ability to focus on her students. Teaching, a path she saw as a means to economic independence, seemed uncertain and difficult in the face of these daily constraints.

Ratna’s struggle was one faced by many women in her village. In a society where women’s roles were traditionally confined to unpaid household labour, the additional burden of fetching water reinforced the barriers that kept them from pursuing education, employment, and self-reliance. But then, a shift began, one that would not only change Ratna’s life but also challenge long-standing limitations on women’s empowerment.

The Jal Jeevan Mission brought piped water connections to every household in Poaltair. For many, it was convenience, but for Ratna, it was liberation. With water now flowing directly into her home, Ratna reclaimed the hours once lost to fetching water. Her tutoring schedule no longer revolved around the struggle for a basic necessity. Instead, she could dedicate uninterrupted time to her students, and soon, word spread about the quality of her teaching.

As more parents recognized her reliability and dedication, her student base grew. What had started as a small effort to supplement her family’s income blossomed into a full-fledged vocation. More than just a source of livelihood, her work became a symbol of possibility for other women in her village, showing them that they, too, could break free from traditional constraints and step into roles of influence and independence.

Ratna’s transformation did not go unnoticed. Her journey, from a woman burdened by time-consuming chores to an educator shaping young minds and earning financial stability, became an inspiration for others. With her newfound confidence, Ratna began advocating for community-driven initiatives, encouraging women to claim their space beyond household responsibilities. She proved that access to clean water is not just about convenience; it is about freedom, freedom to pursue ambitions, contribute economically, and create lasting change.

Through her resilience and will, she has not only rewritten her own destiny but also laid the foundation for a future where women in Poaltair, and beyond, can chase their dreams without limitations. Because when water stops being a barrier, opportunities start to flow.

Ratna Mandal says, “This journey has been about not just the availability of clean water, it is about how access to essential resources can transform social structures, empower women, and uplift entire communities.”





Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

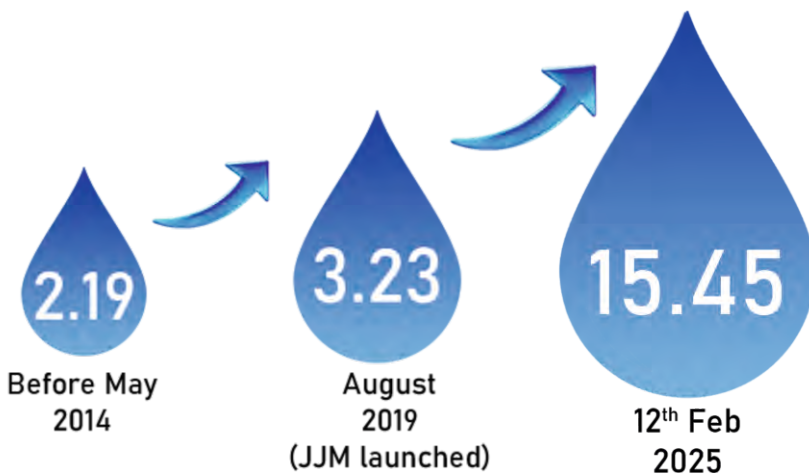
A Journey of Progress and Change



TRANSFORMATIVE change



Progress of household with tap water connection in rural areas (2014-2024)



Households with tap water connections (In Crore)

Then

Now

Water Quality



More than 24.80 lakh women trained to use Field Test Kits to check the quality of water supplied at source/ at home.



In FY 2023-24, over 1.83 Crore and over 1.42 Crore tests in FY 2024-25 (as on date) have been conducted using labs or FTKs.

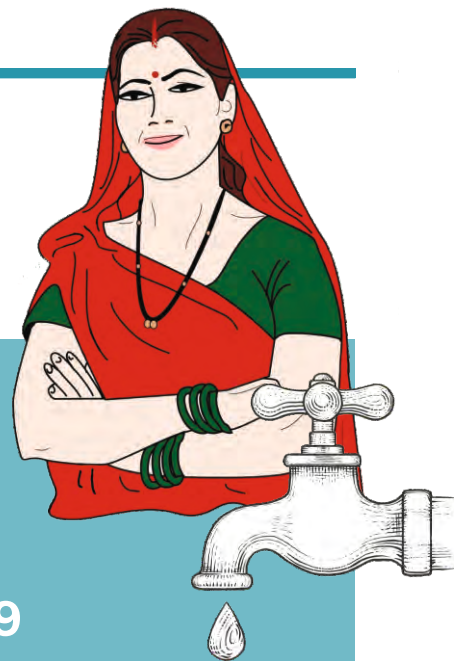


2,180 water testing laboratories are open for public to test water samples at nominal rates.



Paradigm Shift

Reform in Drinking Water



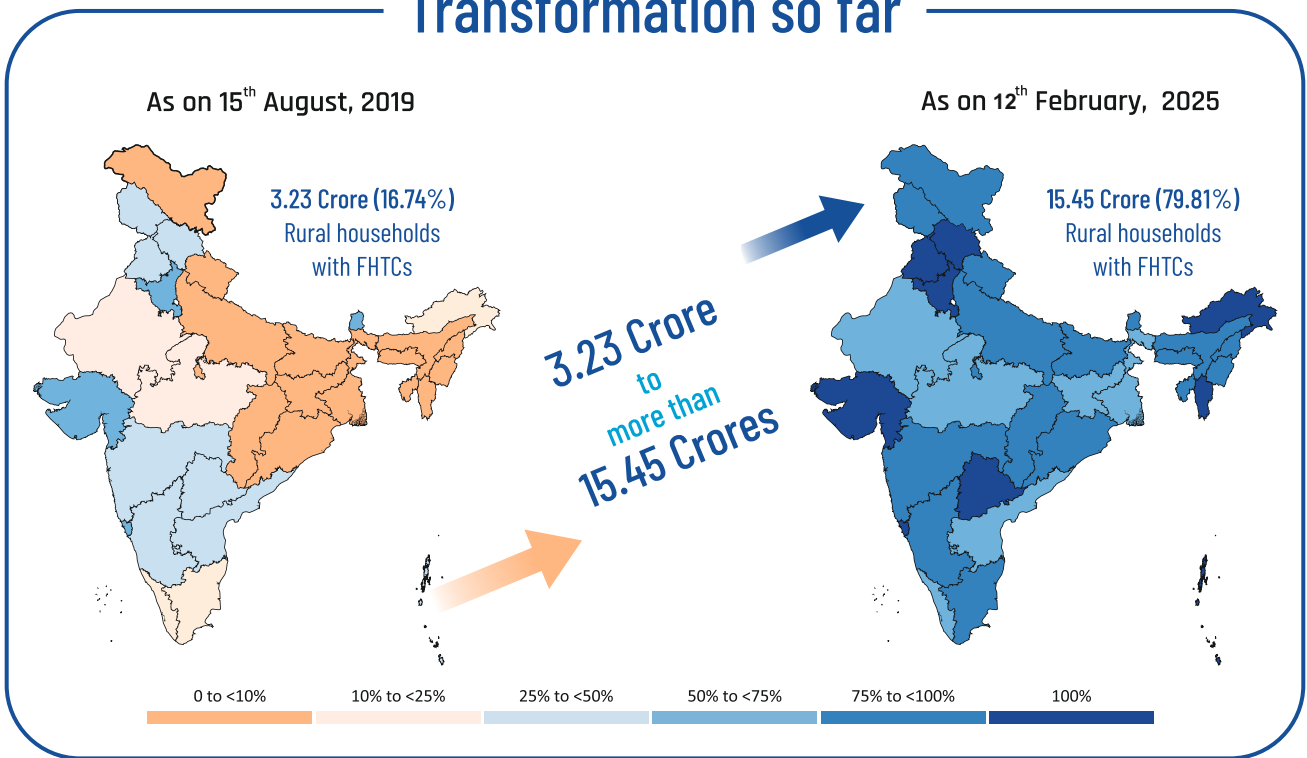
	Then Pre 2019	Now Post 2019
Availability	Habitation Level: habitation level to enable people to get potable water.	Household Level: provision of tap water is being made till household level in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis.
Quantity	Variable 40-55 LPCD	Minimum 55 LPCD
Quality infra	Very less no. of WQ labs	Network of 2,180 water quality labs established
Women Participation	No mandatory participation of women at village level	>50% women led Pani Samitis/ VWSCs at community level for better management
Source Sustainability	Limited focus	Focus from planning stage with specific emphasis on recharge of Ground Water for PWS sources
Skilling for O&M	Entrusted with Panchayat level	Policy decision for skilled manpower under Nal Jal Mitra Programme (NJMP) User Charges Accounting



Achievements under JJM

With speed & scale

Transformation so far



Progress of Mission

- Tap water coverage increased from 3.23 Crore (16.74%) to more than 15.45 Crore (79.81%) households.
- 9.32 lakh (89.36%) schools, 9.69 lakh (85.21%) anganwadi centres and 3.93 lakh (77.27%) public institutions benefited.
- Tap water coverage increased from 21.38 lakh (8%) to 2.15 Crore (78.35%) in 112 Aspirational Districts





100% coverage in 8 States - Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Goa, Haryana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab



100% coverage in 3 Union Territories - Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu and Puducherry



100% coverage in **189 districts, 1,862 blocks**, and over **2.51 lakh villages**



78.35% coverage in **112 aspirational districts** and **15 aspirational districts** reported Har Ghar Jal



In **38 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts**, FHTC have been provided in **57.99 lakh (74.60%)** out of **77.74 lakh Households**



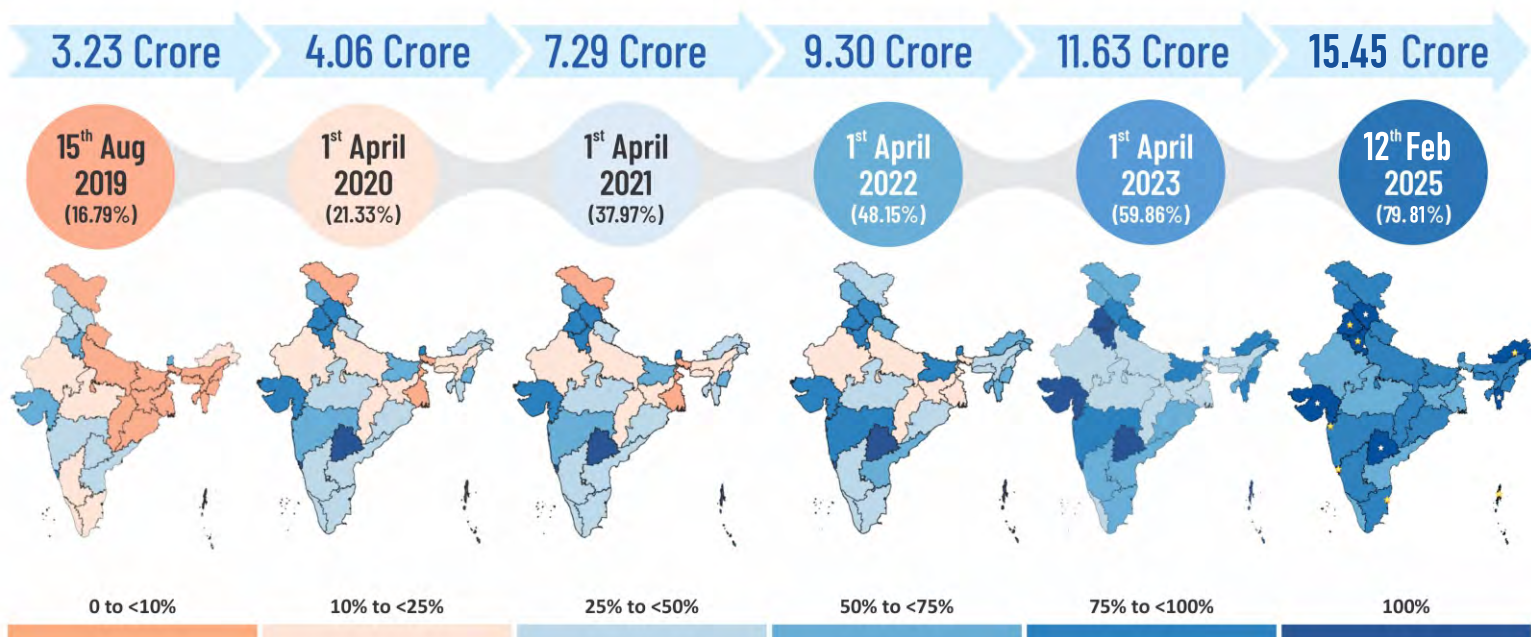
PM-JANMAN: Since launch on 15th November 2023, over **51.78 lakh** households in PVTG villages provided with tap water connection. Out of **18,006 PM-JANMAN villages**, **6,650 villages** are saturated (100% tap connection)



Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA): Out of **63,037 villages**, **24,630 villages** are saturated (100% tap connection) and approx **1.29 Crore** households are getting clean tap water.



Jal Jeevan Mission Milestones



Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal

World's largest programme for providing potable drinking water to every rural household of the country

Har Ghar Jal Jal Jeevan Mission



Before JJM 97

3.23 Crore

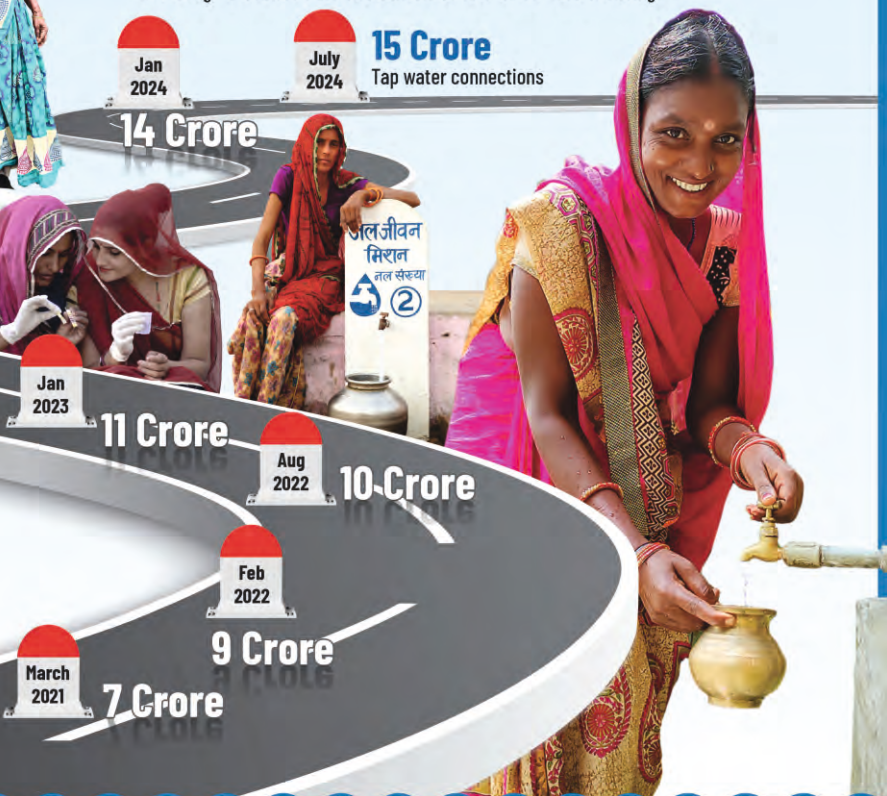
Households with tap water connections as on 15th August, 2019



Launch of Jal Jeevan Mission

15th August, 2019

by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



15 Crore

Tap water connections



जलजीवन मिशन नल संक्या



Impacts of Jal Jeevan Mission

Equity and Inclusiveness



Inclusiveness: The mission recognizes the need for a targeted approach to address the needs of vulnerable groups like Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and geographically disadvantaged areas



Gender Equality: Focus on Women's Leadership-Jal Jeevan Mission recognizes the crucial role women play in managing water resources at the household level

Freedom from Drudgery



5.5 Crore hours saved daily from fetching water (75% women)

Contributing in Well-being



As per Study by Development Innovation Lab of Chicago University, nearly 30% infant deaths can be reduced if safe water is made available to families for drinking



1.36 lakh deaths per annum pertaining to children below 5 years can be prevented in India with provision of safe water



JJM may prevent 4 lakh diarrheal deaths - As per WHO report

Generating Employment Opportunities



As per study conducted by IIM Bangalore and ILO on 'Assessment of Employment Potential of Jal Jeevan Mission'



JJM has potential to generate 59.9 lakh person-years of direct and 2.22 Crore person- years of indirect employment



13.3 lakh additional direct employment annually during O&M Stage

Socio-Economic Benefits



SBI Research: 8.3% point decline in percentage of household fetching water from outside



7.4% point increase in women's participation in agriculture & allied activities





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