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There is a need to take the mantra of ‘Reaching the Last Mile’ in the tribal and rural areas in India. This has also been given special attention in this year’s budget. A provision of thousands of crores of rupees has been made in the budget for the Jal Jeevan Mission to achieve the target of ‘Reaching the Last Mile’.

Until 2019, only 3 crore houses in the rural areas of our country had access to tap water. Now their number has increased to more than 11 crores, and that too in such a short span of time. 

"Narendra Modi, Prime Minister"
Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

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PM’s address at post budget webinar on ‘Reaching the last mile’ on 27th February, 2023
Note from the desk of
Additional Secretary & Mission Director...

New Delhi
28th February 2023

February marks the month of the budget and while the Union Budget 2023 sets the financial outlay, States/UTs are busy closing the current financial year. They are planning for the upcoming financial year to optimally utilize the resources being made available. The budget for Jal Jeevan Mission for 2023-24 has been enhanced to Rs. 70,000 Crores and it’s a matter of pride to collectively do more good work this year. It indicates that the Union Government is committed to enhancing public health access and providing a better quality of life along with enhancing ‘ease of living’.

It is required of the State/UTs to sensitize all stakeholders at every level to quickly plan and provide FHTCs to the remaining rural households. And to facilitate the same, the department has taken up multiple joint review meetings with State Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Mission Directors, and other senior officials to further expedite the implementation.

The upcoming month of March marks two international days; International Women's Day whose theme is- 'Embracing Equity' and International Water Day on 22nd March 2023, whose theme is 'Accelerating Change'. Soon, Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain 2023 (JSA-CTR 2023) is to be launched in presence of the Honourable President of India on 4th March during an upcoming event 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Sammaan’- an award ceremony to felicitate the exceptional contribution of women in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector. Since the focus area of JSA-CTR 2023 is the Source Sustainability of drinking water sources, the States/UTs are being requested to pay more attention to this theme in their Annual Action Plans for FY 2023-24. Integrated Water Resource Management is the key to sustaining drinking water sources and making optimal use of it. The themes of these two days are interlinked where women in Jal Jeevan Mission are the agents of change. The age-old drudgery that they have faced since ages is being broken; they are far more empowered, and are gaining more agency when it comes to the management of in-village water supply systems.

With this note, I would like to urge everyone to also take up activities related to IEC and capacity building to make JJM’s dream of ‘Har Ghar Nal se Shudh Jal’ a reality and sustainable in the long run. It is noteworthy that JJM is inculcating a sense of equity where women are transitioning into community leaders while acting as wheels of change to ensure ‘ease of living’ and are becoming active participants of this ‘Jan Andolan’.

[Vikas Sheel]
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Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 28.2.2023)

Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/UTs (as on 28.2.2023)
As on 28th February, 2023

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of households (HHs)</th>
<th>Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019</th>
<th>Households with tap water connections as on date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19,36,32,454</td>
<td>3,23,62,838 (16.71%)</td>
<td>11,31,54,421 (58.43%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

8,07,91,583 (49.88%)

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

100% FHTC States/UTs
Goa, Telangana, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Haryana, Punjab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100% FHTC Districts</th>
<th>100% FHTC Blocks</th>
<th>100% FHTC Panchayats</th>
<th>100% FHTC Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>73,263</td>
<td>1,52,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As on 15th August, 2019

As on 28th February, 2023

0%-10% 11%-25% 26%-50% 51%-75% 76%-100% 100%

A. We are handholding the state governments and assisting them in implementation, technical support and approvals for the pipelines. We are particularly going into detail in thirteen states where 95 per cent of the residual connections are located. We are confident of connecting 100 per cent of rural households with tap water connections within the targeted timeframe.

Q. What is the Ministry doing to ensure quality tap water?
A. The Centre has set up more than 2,000 labs across the country for water-quality testing and more than half of these are NABL-accredited. We have been training women in villages in using field-testing kits to ensure there is no arsenic, fluoride, or bacterial contamination of drinking water sources.

Also, the village water and sanitation committee is to oversee implementation as well as operation and maintenance, for which it can levy user charges. The 15th Finance Commission has earmarked 60 per cent of the rural local body grants for water and sanitation. For larger multi-village schemes, states are adding the component operations and maintenance into the project itself so that the agency doing the work for its upkeep knows it is responsible and must ensure quality. We are also highlighting and rewarding exemplary work in ensuring water quality, like the ‘Swaachh Sujal Samman’ awards on March 4.

Q. The Jal Shak Ministry’s allocation has been raised by over 40 per cent in Budget 2023. Why such a boost?
A. The increased allocation reflects the Centre’s commitment to increasing the ‘ease of living’ of the people. The Centre has always been clear in its commitment to provide funds for the schemes implemented by the ministry.

Q. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) dashboard shows as of February this year, 57 per cent of targeted households have tap water. With less than 12 months remaining, will the Ministry be able to meet the deadline?

Q. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has used 60 per cent of the 2022-23 allocation. What is the reason behind the underutilization?
A. Water is a state subject, and it is the states that have to implement the schemes. We are supporting the states in various ways, including providing funds as per the states’ requirements and in step with utilization.

Q. What are you aiming to achieve this year?
A. We are striving to achieve the aims of the two schemes: SBM 2.0 (Swachh Bharat Mission) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Over 1.9 lakh villages in the country have achieved Open Defecation Free-Plus (ODF+) status so far and we will attempt to double the number this year. The aim is to ensure all villages can declare themselves ODF+ by end of 2024. Similarly, the JJM aims to connect all rural households with clean tap water by 2024. We will get closer to achieving this aim.
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**Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain 2023**

**Jal Jeevan Mission** was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 15th August, 2019 with the objective of providing Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024. The mission aims at providing drinking water of prescribed quality (BIS 10500 water quality standards), in adequate quantity (55 lpcd), on a long-term and regular basis. Its focus is on ‘service delivery’ rather than mere water supply 'infrastructure development'. It is a demand-driven, decentralized, community-managed programme for improving the ease of living of the rural population.

At the time of announcement of the Mission, there were total 18.93 Crore rural households out of which 3.23 Crore (17%) had tap water connections. Since then, around 7.78 Crore (40%) families living in rural areas have been provided with tap water connections in their homes. Now, out of around 19.39 Crore rural households, about 11.29 Crore (58.23%) rural families of the country have assured potable tap water supply in their homes.

Sustainable water supply sources are a pre-requisite for maintaining the tap water service levels and is emerging as a major challenge. With the impact of climate change on monsoon, the spatial and temporal variation of rainfall significantly varies. Further, right to water is recognised as a Fundamental Right under Article 21. National Water Policy mentions Safe Water for drinking and sanitation should be considered as pre-emptive needs. While more and more households in rural areas are getting household tap connections at a rapid pace due to the efforts of the states, it is more important to ensure that tap water service levels once started, are maintained as per norms and the piped water supply schemes do sustain for their full design period.

Water conservation has always found a special mention in many Indian scriptures and *Bharath Varsh* has been practicing this for centuries. A number of traditional water harvesting structures across the country constructed before the advent of the British regime, stand testimony to the importance accorded and the necessity for water conservation. With the centralized water management adopted under British rule, the people's participation got dwindled and most of the structures went into disuse/abuse.

In order to resuscitate and channelize (Jan Shakti) people’s power for water conservation, Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the year 2019 in 1,592 blocks out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water-stressed districts of the country. JSA could not be taken up in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. In 2021, “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR)

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1. As on 27.02.2023
2. At INR 82.93 per dollar as on 27.2.2023
with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls” was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister to cover all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country. “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) - 2022 campaign, the third in the series of JSAs, was launched by the Honourable President on 29.03.2022 in all districts (rural as well as urban areas) of the country for implementation from 29th March 2022 to 30th November 2022 - covering pre-monsoon and monsoon periods.

The focused interventions of JSA 2022 inter alia included (1) water conservation and rainwater harvesting; (2) enumerating, geotagging & making an inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it (3) setting up Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation.

The campaign evoked an excellent response all over the country. During Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2021 period, in both urban and rural areas put together, a total of 39, 74,794 water-related works were completed/ongoing incurring expenditure of Rs. 23,717 crores.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2023 is to be launched by the Honourable President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu, and “Source sustainability for Drinking Water” (JSA-2023-SSDW) has been kept as the central theme of JSA, 2023. This will bring the necessary focus on water conservation for improving and sustaining the sources of piped drinking water supply, especially groundwater sources, and springs. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has identified 150 districts where the implementation of various thematic activities would be closely monitored by Central Nodal Officers (CNOs).

It is estimated that about 13 lakh water supply schemes (single & multi village) are partially/fully dependent on groundwater to provide drinking water to 66% of rural tap connections (about 12.89 crores); 20% of North East (NE) and Himalayan States' villages depend on springs and these springs need to be sustained.

Under JJM the piped water supply schemes, once completed, shall be handed over to Panchayats. The Panchayats through the Village Water and Sanitation Committees/ Paani Samitis/ women SHGs, operate and maintain the schemes. It is therefore imperative that a community-driven approach is also adopted for source sustainability efforts, right from the identification of works to be undertaken, to their execution, completion, verification, and maintenance. States should focus on time-bound implementation and complete all works before the onset of monsoon. States must focus on building capacities of the panchayats/VWSC/SHGs etc., for planning, implementation, and maintenance of such works.

Availability of appropriately skilled local manpower should also be ensured for this purpose in convergence with the National Skill Development Mission. The District Magistrate/ Collector/ Deputy Commissioner would be assisted by a Jal Shakti Fellow whose engagement would be funded under Jal Jeevan Mission. Progress under the Abhiyan will be closely monitored. The Central Nodal Officers would be deputed to 150 identified districts, and shall also assist in planning, implementation, and monitoring of the Abhiyan.

A “Whole of Government” approach is necessary for a campaign of such a large scale. While the state PHEDs are expected to provide the necessary technical inputs, given that the panchayats will have to be involved at all stages and that, many of the required works will have to be undertaken through the resources available under the tied grants of the 15th Finance Commission and MGNREGS, it would be important for the Rural Development Departments in the states to lead the implementation efforts. Necessary coordination in this regard is also ensured.

Best practices would be documented and shared among States for cross-learning and implementation. States should use this opportunity to undertake all such measures, including direct recharge structure, rejuvenation of identified water bodies and spring shed development, etc. Detailed standard operating protocols (SoPs) are being prepared by Central Ground Water Board in this regard with protocol detailing how risk assessment of villages is to be done.

There is a competing demand for groundwater from the domestic, agricultural and industry sectors. Owing to a recent warning by the Indian Metrological Department (IMD) about a likely extended period of a heat wave, it is necessary that campaigns like JSA assume an important role in water security, avoiding conflicts among users and uses. Hon'ble Prime Minister has been emphasizing 'making water everyone's business'. Water security of the nation is the primary requirement so that limitation to water access does not become a reason for subdued development and Jal Shakti Abhiyan would play an important role in enhancing water security.

In the months to come, we would keep you all updated about Jal Shakti Abhiyan and share your efforts with the world about making water everyone's business.
Har Ghar Jal: Making water everyone's business

Water is one of the most essential elements for life. It’s found in abundance on earth. About 71% of the Earth’s surface is covered with water. Still, water is a rare commodity because most of the water on earth is either saline or its not accessible. 96.5% of the total water on earth is in Oceans. It also exists in the air as vapour, in rivers and lakes, in ice-caps, in glaciers, and in the ground as soil moisture. Only 2.5% of the total water on earth is fresh water and of this, only 0.3% is in liquid form on the earth’s surface. Even in countries with adequate water resources, water scarcity is not uncommon. Although this may be due to a number of factors — collapsed infrastructure and distribution systems, contamination, conflict, or poor management of water resources — it is clear that climate change, as well as human factors, are increasingly denying children their right to safe water and sanitation.

Water scarcity limits access to safe water for drinking and for practising basic hygiene at home, in schools and in health-care facilities. When water is scarce, sewage systems can fail and the threat of contracting diseases like cholera surges. Water scarcity takes a greater toll on women and children because they are often the ones responsible for collecting it. When water is further away, it requires more time to collect, which often means less time at school. Particularly for girls, a shortage of water in schools impacts student enrolment, attendance and performance. Carrying water long distances is also an enormous physical burden and can expose children to safety risks and exploitation. Many countries have taken actions to raise awareness about water conservation and encourage water-saving practices.

Some countries have overcome from water scarcity, and the specific solutions they used are depending on a variety of factors, including their geography, climate, and available resources. To handle the issue in their
own circumstances, many countries adopted variety of diverse ways. Water scarcity solutions are addressed through various strategies, such as conservation, water recycling, desalination, rainwater harvesting, water trading, drought-resistant crop practices, and groundwater management. These strategies have been effectively adopted in several nations based on their specific requirements and resources. Countries like Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Australia have invested in desalination plants, while Singapore has advanced water recycling systems, and other countries have improved irrigation systems or infrastructure to manage their water resources more effectively. Combinations of these techniques are the key to solving water scarcity, which can help countries to overcome from water shortages and ensure access to clean and safe water.

Similarly, India has taken steps on 15th August, 2019, and as the country celebrated its 73rd Independence Day, the Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, addressing women's struggles with water scarcity and "improving the quality of life" and enhancing the "ease of living" for its citizens, as accorded the highest priority by the national government. The implementation of JJM involves a community-based approach with the involvement of villagers, gram panchayats, and other stakeholders to enable every rural house in the villages to have Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC). The mission has been launched with an integrated approach and end-to-end measures, from source to supply to reuse and recharge. The 'Har Ghar Jal' programme has been envisioned as a Jan Aandolan/people's movement. Every stakeholder who works in tandem towards realising the dream of 'Har Ghar Jal', where every rural household and public institution has access to safe, clean drinking water in adequate quantity (at least 55 lpcd) and of prescribed quality (as per BIS 10500), is a major contributor to the programme. Strengthening every household in the villages of rural India is a mammoth task, in terms of implementing a flagship scheme and working in Mission mode without compromising institutional arrangements and the pivotal role that is played by the State Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) / Rural Water Supply (RWS) department. The provision of every household tap connection in rural areas will help remove the 'drudgery' of women and girls, as fetching water is their prime responsibility. Since the objective of the mission is full tap water coverage, every family in the habitation/village is to drinking water supply and 'no one is left behind'.

Community ownership and sustainability of the in-village drinking water supply scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) are very critical and challenging tasks. Assuring the availability of water through household tap connections is a priority; the village water and sanitation committee (VWSC) and Jalshahiya's are facilitating the preparation of the village action plan (VAP) in Palamu district. From the very beginning, team members have encouraged and mobilised the community to take charge, perceive the usefulness of VAP for implementing JJM, and extend their support towards effective planning. Kotkhas Gram Panchayat in UP is one such example, where the team, with the support of the district administration, has effectively been able to seed community contributions as a step to ensure long-term benefits. Some key focuses of the JJM is community-level participation in the implementation of the programme, by the several reasons:

1. Ownership and sustainability: Community participation in the implementation of programmes creates a sense of ownership and responsibility, making the programme more sustainable. Involving local communities in the planning and implementa-
3. Transparency and accountability: Community participation in a program ensures transparency and accountability in its implementation, allowing communities to monitor its progress and ensuring effective implementation. It creates a system of checks and balances, ensuring fairness and efficiency. This participation also builds trust between the government and the people, demonstrating a commitment to collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life for rural citizens.

4. Awareness and Social Mobilization: The mission has raised awareness among communities about the significance of safe drinking water and sanitation, motivating them to take an active role in ensuring clean water availability in their villages. Community participation in social mobilization creates awareness of the importance of safe drinking water and sanitation and helps mobilize resources and support from different stakeholders.

5. Improved Health Benefits: The availability of safe drinking water has improved health outcomes, especially for women and children responsible for collecting water from distant sources, leading to increased school attendance and reduced morbidity rates. The availability of clean water has significantly reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases, resulting in improved health outcomes for communities.

6. Equity: Community participation in the JJM ensures that the water supply schemes are designed and implemented with the needs and priorities of the local community in mind. This helps to ensure that the water supply schemes are culturally appropriate and take into account the local social, economic, and environmental factors. This promotes equity and reduces the risk of exclusion.

To achieve the goal of providing FHTC to every rural household by 2024,
along with development of water supply infrastructure there is a need to spread awareness and sensitize communities on judicious use of water, community contribution and ownership, build capacities of GPs and/or its sub-committee, i.e. VWSC/ Paani Samiti/ User Group etc. to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain in-village infrastructure, focus on setting up long-term sustainable institutional mechanisms, build skills of various human resources required, viz. masons, plumbers, electricians, motor mechanics, pump operators, etc. These activities will help in developing responsible and responsive leadership among communities ensuring long-term sustainability of the water supply systems.

It is envisaged under JJM that the community will play a lead role in planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of in-village water supply infrastructure thereby leading to FHTCs to every rural household. The willingness of community, reflected through Gram Sabha resolution and community contribution, will be the foremost criterion for planning of water supply system in villages. The mission recognises the importance of involving the community in planning, implementing, and maintaining water supply systems. The mission emphasises that community participation is critical for the sustainability of the program. The motivation behind community participation is to create a sense of ownership among the people and to empower them to take responsibility for the maintenance and management of the water supply systems. By involving the community in the decision-making process, the mission aims to ensure that the water supply systems are designed to meet the specific needs of the people and are sustainable in the long run. The mission also recognises that community participation is essential for creating awareness about the importance of safe drinking water and promoting behaviour change among the people.

Jal Jeevan Mission is working tirelessly to ensure the basic amenity of drinking water so that it reaches every rural home in the country. The goal is to inculcate a sense of active citizenship through social and behavioural change, as water is everyone’s business. Under JJM, the piped water supply schemes, once completed, shall be handed over to the panchayats. It is the Panchayats, mostly through the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (Paani Samitis) and women SHGs, that operate and maintain the rural water supply schemes. It is therefore imperative that a community-driven approach be adopted for mission sustainability, which begins with the identification of works to be undertaken and continues with their execution, completion, verification, and maintenance. Community participation can help build trust between the government and the people, as it demonstrates a commitment to working collaboratively to improve the quality of life for rural citizens. Through Jan Andolan, the mission aims to ensure that the people have access to safe and adequate drinking water and that the program is sustainable in the long run and makes India a water-secure nation.
Mizoram lies in the southern part of Northeast India, which is a tropical location under the influence of southwest monsoon. The total geographical area of the state is 21,081 Sq. Km, with Cachar district of Assam in the north, Manipur in the northeast, and Tripura in the northwest. The eastern and Southern boundary is the international border between India and Myanmar, whereas, the western part of the state is bounded by Bangladesh. Even though there are available water resources in the state, several rural areas still face acute water supply issues owing to dried-up sources.

In the past, community-managed Improved Village Spring Source (IVSS/ Tuikhur), private wells and Individual Rain Water Harvesting Systems have often been the main traditional sources of rural drinking water. The first government-installed rural water supply schemes were implemented in the 1950s as part of the Government’s policy to provide basic drinking water supply facilities to the rural population. Since then, the involvement of the government has increased with a corresponding decrease in the role of communities in the rural water supply sector.

Mizoram comprises N-S trending ridges with steep slopes, narrow synclinal valleys, and dissected ridges with deep gorges. In this type of terrain, groundwater is limited to secondary porosity like rock fractures and fissures only. Hence, ground water cannot be utilized as the main source of water supply.

However, the state is blessed with abundant rainfall, numerous springs, streams, and several perennial rivers. Hence, they are the main sources of water supply in Mizoram. Springs are the most important sources of water supply in Mizoram since time immemorial. The utilization of spring sources for piped water supply has also become popular in recent years. Generally, springs located within or near the periphery of human settlements are utilized for tapping drinking water and for irrigation purposes. From the different types of sources, water has been tapped using various methods like gravity-based, solar power and grid power. Presently, there are 646 gravity-based water supply schemes, 186 solar-powered pumping schemes, and 8 grid-power pumping schemes.

There are 1,33,060 rural households in Mizoram out of which 9,201 households were provided...
with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) at the beginning of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Soon after, under JJM 90,719 households were provided with FHTCs. So, the total number of households with FHTC as of 20.02.2023 was 99,920 thereby achieving 75% FHTC coverage from the total rural households of 1,33,060.

There are 13 working Divisions under the PHE Department that are executing the works of JJM in Mizoram. Rural areas used to face scarcity of water for many years and during the dry season, villagers would solely rely on the springs leading to an insufficient supply of water. With the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and drastic measures taken by the community leaders and the Public Health Engineering Department, the villages are now enjoying an abundance of water supply.

The role and contribution of the village leaders along with the help of the Young Mizo Association (YMA) which is the biggest non-governmental Organization are indeed laudable. Realizing the fact that conservation of water and its source is of fundamental value, steps were taken by the leaders of the community towards the conservation of their water bodies and strengthening of their water resources.

Since 2012, Public Health Engineering Department has been organizing programmes and awareness drives toward water conservation. The leaders of villages decided to set up a subcommittee for water conservation under YMA. Various strategies and steps were deliberated toward conservation and awareness. Various appeals were then made to all stakeholders and their contribution and cooperation were requested. The first appeal made was towards the Village Panchayat leaders to request the villagers not to burn or deforest their dense forests while clearing land for jhum cultivation and also to annually increase the area of untouched land. Awareness programs targeting students and children were organized. One such initiative was translating the letter of former President APJ Abdul Kalam which talks about the future in 2070 where there will be a water crisis and also sharing visual presentations of it so as to inculcate the importance of water conservation.

Messages, drawings and slogans were also distributed to students and teachers to spread awareness. Demonstrations were also made to instill greater knowledge and ideas in young minds. Each working division puts tremendous effort within its jurisdiction for the success of JJM in the state. Monitoring works have been carried out by the Monitoring Cell from the office of the E-in-C office, PHED as well. And this is how Mizoram has been able to achieve 75% coverage irrespective of all odds and geographical challenges.
Service delivery i.e., ensuring household-level drinking water security by providing tap water of prescribed quality in adequate quantity on regular basis: Ensuring prescribed quality and quantity of potable water under JJM to every rural family reveals a serious challenge of sustaining sources and grey water management. In the context of climate change, water availability and quality is again a big challenge, not only in India but across the globe.

Jharkhand, in this context, has planned systematically to provide FHTC to all 61.18 lakh rural households ensuring efficient service delivery. Therefore, DWSD Jharkhand is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in mission-mode approach. First priority has been given to surface-based water supply systems to mitigate the exploitation of groundwater. In water-scarce regions or wherever surface water is not available, solar-based water supply systems have been planned, which will enable the State to save electricity costs. Taking all these factors into account Jharkhand planned for source sustainability and grey water management simultaneously along with FHTC coverage.

Institutional arrangement for long-term sustainability of source of systems: For sustainability of sources, the DWSD has converged with different departments for creating infrastructures for water conservation and bore well recharge. A joint letter has been issued by Secretary, DWSD, PRD and RD, Govt. of Jharkhand on solid and liquid waste management and with a focus on source sustainability and grey water management. Through MGNREGA and 15th FC rain water harvesting structures are created. Through Water Resource Department, numbers of check dams, irrigation tanks etc., have been constructed in a focused manner, keeping the objective of JJM paramount. River and other water bodies’ rejuvenation projects have been undertaken for source strengthening. Secretary, DWSD, Govt. of Jharkhand has issued a letter to all the DCs of the state for development of rainwater harvesting structures, soak pits for grey water management and all the schools, AWCs and health facilities have these structures for sustaining sources while focusing on water conservation as well.

Capacity building of village communities: In order to ensure source sustainability activities at village level, number of capacity building activities have been conducted by the department across the state. Numerous campaigns have been organized; especially on source sustainability and judicious use of water. State level training of Master Trainers on WQMS and source sustainability along with sustainability of water supply schemes is also being organized. And as well know, ISAs are playing a very crucial role in community mobilization on source sustainability and grey water management.
Impact of implementing water meter under Jal Jeevan Mission

Water is essential for life on earth and is one of the basic necessities. Water is also called Jivamruta; very vital for our daily functioning. Although most of our earth is covered by water, not all of this is safe for consumption. The water problem has bothered people on a large scale since the scarcity began. Therefore, the conservation of water is critical for today’s needs and tomorrow’s future. Daily human activities are impossible without water and as India is an agricultural country; water is important for agriculture. Moreover, industries use water for various purposes like; running thermal power plants consumes a lot of water.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission and for its implementation in Karnataka, the state government decided to install water meters for tap connections in every house to fulfill the objective of measuring water consumption and the amount of water flowing through the taps every month. From a total of 1,01,16,478 households (HHs) of Karnataka, 40,74,180 households have been provided with water meter connections.

The local administration (Grama Panchayat) plays a very important role by recording the consumption of water in a ledger and by levying a monthly fee. The main purpose of installing the meter is to measure the water supplied to each house and to create awareness among the
people about the moderate use of water i.e., use water only as much as required and conserve the rest.

People feel that water should be used judiciously as meters have been installed for functional household tap connections and do not waste water anymore. Installing meters has also helped to ensure that at least 55 liters of water is delivered to each person through Jal Jeevan Mission. With the installation of this meter, it has become convenient to make the people responsible and has instilled the idea that they should use water only as per the need/requirement.

Water is a scarce resource. Let's use water judiciously and preserve water for future generations.

Benefits of water meter installation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accountability for every drop of water flowing through a functional household tap connection has increased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every individual is more responsible and accountable now, for water usage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The quantity of water used in each household is being measured by the water meters now.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water meters are beginning to change the behavior of people; it helps in avoid water wastage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water meters help Grama Panchayat to record water consumption in the ledger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water meters help in accounting for charges to be levied for water consumption every month and are thereby useful for the Operation and Maintenance of Grama Panchayat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water meter usage is helpful for own resource mobilization as well.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water meters are useful for maintaining a sustainable water supply system in-village-infrastructure by collecting user fees from community.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Installation of water meter
Being a cold desert, the weather conditions in Ladakh are extreme. Water has long been a valued and scarce resource in this desert mountain. Before Jal Jeevan Mission, Ladakhis used to rely on glacial and permafrost melt for water. They used to walk miles on the bumpy mountainous road to fetch water. The water woes multiply during spring and winter as the available water freezes. Temperatures at night drop to a minimum of -20 to -30 degrees Celsius in winter while it remains sub-zero during the day. These inhospitable conditions make the life of Ladkahis despondent. The ‘Har Ghar Jal’ scheme has made a noticeable change in terms of the drinking water supply in this Himalayan region ensuring ‘ease of living’ for the rural population especially women and young girls.

Providing clean tap water during extreme winter inside the households is very challenging as water sources freeze, pipes burst, and supply lines become inoperative. With the lowest population density in the country (2.8 person/ sq. km.), villages in Ladakh are scattered and have scanty rainfall. It remains isolated from the rest of the country for a few months in a year due to the closure of passes during winters. This heavily affects the supply of materials. Under such circumstances, helicopters & mules are mobilised to lift and transport materials.

In eastern Ladakh on the line of actual control bordering India and China the lesser-known Tibetan Village of Dungti, near Demjok, is a true testimony portraying the success of the centre’s flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission. The villagers are now getting piped water in extreme low temperatures such as -30 degree Celsius when the Indus River is frozen which flows just near the village.

An elderly man of Dungti summed up the result by describing it as a life-altering freedom from the burden of fetching water in the morning, especially during the harsh winter. Many remote villages like Lingshed, Dipling, Doltokling are now getting drinking water under JJM during adverse weather conditions.

The inhabitants of Spituk Monastery at hillock are happy to get free-flowing clean water from taps. Earlier the Buddhist monastic community
used to rely on tankers in winter that supplies water. Under the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ scheme the Monastery is witnessing a remarkable transformation.

The smile on the faces of residents of Skyu-kaya village is evidence of the ‘ease of living’ that JJM is providing through household tap connections using appropriate technology. The inmates of the village are getting uninterrupted drinking water supply in sub-zero temperatures at a height of nearly 15,000 ft. under JJM. Earlier they used to fetch water from a hand pump that was damaged in floods & from nearby nallah.

Similarly, in the snow-covered Domkhar village of Skurbuchan block, JJM brings ease of living for villagers as access to drinking water has now become easy during winters. Residents are happy as JJM is quenching their water woes ensuring freedom from drudgery. Thanks to JJM; access to water in winter is no more a nightmare for Ladakhis.

“In a place like Changthang with extreme weather conditions where the temperature drops down to as low as -20 degrees centigrade, functional household tap connection under JJM has proven to be a success. In the past, getting water, particularly in winter and spring was a major difficulty, and we either relied on water tankers that came twice a week or had to walk long distances to fetch water from the river by melting ice. But getting flowing water from taps in our homes is a miracle for us, especially for the elderly.” Says Shri Rigzen Chosgail from Nyoma Changthang village in Eastern Ladakh near the Line of Control (LAC).

Abhi Le Julley from Thukje Gompa habitation near Tso Kar Lake says “this winter is a relief for us, as we are getting free-flowing water from taps. Earlier getting water in Spring and winter was a nightmare for us, as water freezes due to sub-zero temperatures. On behalf of my community my sincere gratitude to this noble mission. Jal Jeevan Mission has brought transformative changes into the lives of people living in remote areas of Ladakh.”
Kalachari village is located in Durgachowmuhani Block in the Dhalai District of Tripura State. The village has around 617 households and a population of about 2,252. Villagers are mainly dependent on agriculture and cattle rearing and speak Bengali and Kokborok.

Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood - an associate organization of TATA Trusts (CML-TATA TRUSTS), is working as a technical and knowledge partner/ Sector Partner in 314 villages of Assam. Under the central flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) they are providing technical and training support to the Public Health Engineering department (PHED), stakeholders, and beneficiaries. Consequent support, meetings, and training on the importance of Water Quality and its Monitoring and Surveillance mechanism have led to an empowered community, especially women. Being water managers, women are keen to take added interest in water issues.

It is truly said that 'actual change is brought only by empowering the community. Bringing them out from their cocoon by building their capacity, steered to a more impactful and long-lasting change.' The five women which are part of the drinking-water quality monitoring and surveillance committee of Kalachari GP is a true example. They have been proactively playing their part under the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme after being trained in water quality tests using Field Test Kits (FTKs) by CML-TATA TRUSTS. They are not only ensuring monitoring of the water quality of the village but also mobilizing the community on safe WASH practices.

The five women group are testing the water quality in 9 parameters (8 Chemical & 1 Biological) i.e., pH level, Turbidity (NTU), Total hardness, Iron contains, Fluoride, Chloride, Nitrate, Free Residual Chlorine, and Bacterial test as per guidelines and BIS standard 10500:2012. They monitor and analyze water quality data by a surveillance mechanism, tracking the vulnerable areas, and alerting the concerned authorities to take remedial action if contamination is found, at the earliest.

Jal Jeevan Mission accords the highest priority to the potability of drinking water. Hence, Government, private sector, and the community
Shri Kaushik Das, Exe. Engineer, DWS KamalPur Division says,

“Great to see five women from the WQM&S committee leading the way in ensuring water quality in the village. They use Field Test Kits to test various water sources, delivery points and regularly upload the reports on the JJM-WQMIS portal. Commendable work, salute to women power!”

“These five-women group is doing their work efficiently. I have noticed a significant improvement in the quality of our water, which is now being maintained and monitored regularly. This has led to a decrease in cases of diarrhoea and other water-borne illnesses in our community, especially among children. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of these women, who have positively impacted the health and well-being of our village. Their efforts inspire us all and remind us of the power of collective action towards a common goal”

Srimati Dipali Kanda, the ASHA worker of the village.
A webinar was organized for explaining the JJM App 2.0 installation process, its usage, geo-tagging of assets, the importance of data updation, and the Har Ghar Jal certification process. Director-NJJM, Shri. Pradeep Singh welcomed the participants and set the context for the virtual training. More than 1,000 participants attended this webinar.

Scan the QR code to watch the video:
https://lnkd.in/d72de5zc

A review meeting on the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen of Kerala was held in DDWS office of CGO complex, New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, DDWS and Dr. V. P. Joy, Chief Secretary, Kerala. Senior officers of the department attended the meeting and Shri. P Viswakannan, Director, NJJM made a brief presentation on the current status and progress of Jal Jeevan Mission, Kerala. At present, over 32 lakh rural households are getting potable water out of 70.69 lakh rural HHs in the State.
2nd steering committee meeting to discuss the work plan in the water sector between National Jal Jeevan Mission and Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) was held in February, as a part of the Green Strategic Partnership between India and the Embassy of Denmark in India. Shri. Vikas Sheel, AS&MD, DDWS, H.E Ambassador, Denmark to India Mr. Freddy Svane, Mr. Casper Mayland, Sector Counsellor, Deputy Director General, DEPA, Ms. Isabelle Navarro Vinten, officials from NJJM, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Namami Gange, CWC, ACS, WRD- Tamil Nadu and other officials participated in the meeting.

Union Budget 2023-24

For effective implementation of ‘Har Ghar Jal’, an allocation of ₹ 70,000 Crore has been made for the FY 2023-24. In Union Budget 2023 Rs. 70,000 Crore has been allocated to Jal Jeevan Mission for the FY 2023-24. An increase of approx. 28% over the previous year’s budget will help speed up the effective implementation of ‘Har Ghar Jal’. During the post-budget webinar Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi said, “Special attention is given to achieve the goal of 'Reaching the last mile' in tribal areas and far-flung villages.

#AmritKaalBudget

One tap at a time!
Jal Jeevan Samvad | 29th Edition | February 2023

JJM and SBM-(G) Review meeting by Union Minister, Jal Shakti

Hon’ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat chaired a meeting to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen at CGO complex, New Delhi in the month of February.

Online meeting on Swachh Jal se Suraksha Campaign

An online meeting to review ‘SwachhJalSeSuraksha’ campaign was chaired by Shri. Vikas Sheel, AS&MD, NJJM, DDWS in February. Progress made by States/ UTs on water testing at sources, schools, and Anganwadi centres was reviewed. AS&MD reiterated the need to complete geotagging of assets by 31st March.

Union Budget 2023-24

#AmritKaalBudget

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During the post-budget webinar Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi said, “Special attention is given to achieve the goal of ‘Reaching the last mile’ in tribal areas and far-flung villages. One tap at a time!”
On the 15th of February, an online meeting was held to review the pending clearances of various Jal Jeevan Mission projects from NHAI and the Ministry of Railways in the States/UTs of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh under the chairmanship of AS&MD, National Jal Jeevan Mission. 16 States have uploaded their clearance requirements on IMIS. A total of 17.32 lakh FHTCs are dependent on pending clearances, whose schemes’ cost involves Rs. 8,811 crores. Among the agencies, Railways have granted a maximum number (68%) of clearances (260 out of 383) so far; Forest has granted (33%) of clearances (80 out of 242) and NHAI has granted the least (30%) of clearances (48 out of 160). Railway clearances have been saturated in 3 States; Uttar Pradesh (131), Madhya Pradesh (72), and Andhra Pradesh (29). NHAI clearances have been saturated in 3 States (1 each); Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, and as of now 307 projects are awaiting 414 clearances; Forest (162 nos.) followed by Railways (130 nos.) and NHAI (122 nos.).

In order to expedite clearances, certain key challenges were discussed with the States/UTs:

1. For upcoming MVS schemes, no. of Forest/NHAI/Railways clearance required may be assessed ab initio for expediting clearances;
2. Delays observed on part of states for submission of bank guarantees to agencies need to be avoided;
3. Status of Clearances under Jal Jeevan Mission is essential to rigorously take up State/UT level interactions with different agencies;
4. Uploading on IMIS even before sending in the application to the agencies should be avoided categorically;
5. Wherever forest-related clearance is pending due to the requirement of NOC from other departments/agencies, the field office may be directed to process the linked NOC for generating the clearance from the concerned agency;
6. However, as a breather in this sector, the Railways has relaxed its cost norms for drinking water pipeline (up to 300 mm diameter) crossing, under Jal Jeevan Mission to INR 1000;
7. It is crucial that the State/UTs participate in the Forest Regional Coordination Meetings held by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on a regular basis;
8. Apart from clearance requirements from central agencies like NHAI, GAIL, IOCL, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, States/UTs also require clearances from their own internal departments like State roads, State roads department dealing with national highways, and irrigation;
9. It was decided in the meeting that clearances would be included as one of the agenda items for review by the State Water and Sanitation Mission chaired by the Chief Secretary.

Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, attended the World Bank Water Week 2023 on 27th February 2023. During his opening address, he highlighted the multiple challenges India faces as a large and varied country. He elaborated on the 5P approach of Ministry of Jal Shakti - which is today a role model for water governance in the country. He said, “with Political will, Public financing, Partnership, Public Participation & Persuasion for sustainability we have been able to address water & sanitation related issues with great efficiency & effectiveness under the leadership of honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi. Innovative financing in water sector was one of the key issues discussed on the forum, where he appealed to the World Bank group to make cheap credit available to innovative entrepreneurs working in the water sector. Alongside this, he stressed on the need & urgency to make water everyone’s business.
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- Delays observed on part of states for submission of bank guarantees to agencies need to be avoided;
- It is essential to rigorously take up State/ UT level interaction/meetings with different agencies;
- Uploading on IMIS even before sending in the application to the agencies should be avoided categorically;
- Wherever forest-related clearance is pending due to the requirement of NOC from other departments/agencies, the field office may be directed to process the linked NOC for getting the clearance from the concerned agency;
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- It was decided in the meeting that clearances would be included as one of the agenda items for review by the State Water and Sanitation Mission chaired by the Chief Secretary.
National Wash Expert visits were conducted in all 13 priority-focused states, where a total of 21 districts have been visited in the month of February 2023. Maximum districts were visited in Rajasthan state and the lowest number of districts were in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal in comparison to all the 13 states. The total number of villages visited is 307 and villages visited in states like Odisha, Assam, Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh are the maximum. A matrix of star rating is given in the table below:

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JJM: Action on the ground

A team of 4 members from the National Jal Jeevan Mission visited the State of Manipur from 21st February – 24th February 2023. The team visited 13 villages in 2 districts of Manipur; Imphal West and Chandel to understand the ground situation, key issues & challenges, and suggest measures to speed up the implementation and document good practices. VAPs have been prepared, TPIAs are deployed in the districts, State has developed Standard Operating Protocol (SoP) for construction quality assurance and control. The district labs of Imphal West and Chandel are NABL accredited for 9 parameters, and FTKs have been distributed at the village level. It was observed that in a majority of villages, training on the use of FTK for water quality testing to 5 women per village has also been imparted. During the field visit, it was also observed in some villages that there was an availability of skilled resources, and they are engaged in the maintenance of the existing water supply scheme.

A team of 4 members from the National Jal Jeevan Mission visited the State of Uttar Pradesh from 21st February – 25th February 2023. The team visited Multi Village Schemes (MVSs) in the 2 districts of Banda and Jhansi district to review the ground-level progress of ongoing MVS schemes and ISA, TPIA, PMC, and IEC activities associated with MVS in these two districts.

NJM team visited MVS and inspected various components of the schemes such as intake works, raw water main, various units of water treatment plant (WTP), and transmission lines. NJM team also visited 02 HGJ villages viz: Dandamau and Pachkauri in Jaspura block of Banda district.

During the visit, an interaction was held with the ADM (Namami Gange), UPJN/ SWSM engineers, and representatives of TPIA, PMC, and ISA to discuss the status and quality of construction and other associated JJM activities.

A debriefing meeting with ADM (Namami Gange) was held at the Collectorate of Banda. The meeting was attended by UPJN/ SWSM engineers, and representatives of TPIA, PMC, and ISA. A one-day workshop was also organized by DWSM, Jhansi district team at Vigyan Bhawan, Jhansi. The meeting was attended by ADM (Namami Gange), members of DWSM, TPIA, PMC, ISA, and IEC representatives.
Five women in each village are trained to conduct water quality testing using Field Test Kits. So far, over 20 lakh women trained across pan India.