President of India on Jal Jeevan Mission ......................................1
Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission ......................................2
Note from the desk of Additional Secretary & Mission Director Arun Baroka ........................................3
JJM Progress
Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) ................................5
Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs .........................5
Coverage of Schools/ AWCs ......................................................7
Articles
Tableau of DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti ........................................8
Water supply in sub-zero temperature .........................................9
Virtual Museum on Water
- Nicolas Osbert ..............................................................10
Haryana: Water quality testing laboratories on wheels
- Spurthi Kolipaka & Amit Kumar Singh ...............................12
Assam: Judicious use of water under JJM
- Rachna Bisht ..............................................................14
Manipur: Marching ahead for ‘Har Ghar Jal’
- PHED, Manipur ............................................................16
Karnataka: Community soak pits for improved sanitation
- Director, ISA ..............................................................17
Professionalizing Water Quality Management by empowered stakeholders
- Nanak Sanadisani & Dr Sunderrajan Krishnan ..........................18
UNOPS ‘We cannot improve, what we cannot measure’
- Madhuri Shukla ..........................................................20
Jammu and Kashmir: Over 1,000 villages become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ ..........................................................22
Odisha: ISA facilitating ‘Har Ghar Jal’ ...........................................23
Uttar Pradesh: Jal Jeevan Mission – Fulfilling aspirations
- Akshay Jain ..............................................................25
Gujarat: Community mobilization: A game changer in Dahod
- Tata Trusts ..............................................................27
Jharkhand: The untold story of Tungri Tola
- Lopamudra Panda ...........................................................29
MoS Jal Shakti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel ......................................31
JJM: action on the ground ......................................................32
Snippets .................................................................................33

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Hon’ble President of India on Jal Jeevan Mission

Launched with the aim of ‘Har Ghar Jal’, the Jal Jeevan Mission has brought about a huge difference in the lives of the people. Nearly six crore rural households have been provided tap water connection despite the constraints imposed by pandemic. It has been of huge benefit for the women, sisters and daughters in our villages.

Address by the Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind to the Joint Sitting of both Houses of the Parliament, 31st January, 2022

Shri Ram Nath Kovind
Hon’ble President of India
Prime Minister on Jal Jeevan Mission

“...Until a few years ago, only 6% people of Manipur received piped water supply in their homes. Today, that network has reached over 60% households under Jal Jeevan Mission...”

Extract from Prime Minister’s address at the foundation stone laying ceremony of various drinking water projects in Manipur on 4th January, 2022

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to ensure clean tap water supply in every rural home, is now becoming people's movement i.e., a 'Jan Andolan'. Post announcement of the mission on 15th August, 2019, by Hon'ble Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort, and despite challenging Covid times with lot of disruptions, yet we continued to move on and about 5.67 Crore more rural households were provided with tap water connections. Now assured tap water supply has reached 8.91 Crore rural households i.e. more than 46% of rural homes of the country. This is turning out to be a game-changer, bringing about rapid socio-economic changes, particularly, great relief to rural women, who earlier had to suffer the drudgery of fetching water under very difficult circumstances.

Work in States/ UTs is going on in full swing. The teams implementing Jal Jeevan Mission on the ground are ensuring that 'no one is left out', while providing tap water connections in all rural households. As a result, all households in 96 districts, 1,106 Blocks and over 1.33 lakh villages across the country, have started getting clean, potable tap water supply on regular and assured basis. For this, the public health engineering teams of States/ UTs along with Gram Panchayats, ISAs, SHGs, Sector Partners, etc. deserve compliments.

In this financial year, less than 60 days are left. Against the goals set by States/ UTs in their Annual Action Plans, overall good progress has been made. It is worthwhile to say that many States/ UTs have shown excellent planning and also accelerated implementation. Other States also must ensure the same in coming days. Mission works, in remaining villages, need to commence at the earliest without further delay.

As Jal Jeevan Mission is a decentralized, demand-driven and community-led programme, therefore, central role is played by the local village community in planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of the water supply schemes. To make water as everyone's business, various stakeholders have to come forward. We have to facilitate the meetings of Gram Sabhas and Village Action Plan (VAP) of each village is to be prepared in a participatory manner for long-term assured water supply and water security in our villages. Members of the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti have to be trained and handled, to shoulder the responsibility of running the in-village water supply system. Further, five women in each village need to be trained for testing the quality of water being supplied, using Field Test Kits. To ensure this, effective community mobilization and IEC campaigns need to be launched in every village.

In line with the motto of Jal Jeevan Mission, i.e. 'Building partnership, changing lives', UN agencies, Trusts, Foundations, etc. are associated with the mission, as Sector Partners. They are dovetailing their resources and efforts, in achieving the collective goal of 'Har Ghar Jal'. For building the capacity, reorienting and training RWS/ W&S/ PHE officials, massive capacity building, training and community mobilization...
activities have been taken up, for which 104 Key Resource Centres (KRCs) are tasked to impart training and upskilling of officials/stakeholders at various levels, i.e. State, district and village level. Local NGOs, VOs, CBOs, women SHGs, etc. are also being engaged by States as Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) to handhold the local rural communities in implementing Jal Jeevan Mission. All these efforts are being made to make Jal Jeevan Mission a ‘Jan Andolan’ - people’s movement.

For the success of the mission, regular review, monitoring and course correction are essential, thereby necessitating regular data collation and updation for accuracy of information. To bring about transparency, as well as to ensure that good work done in every State/UT is highlighted, JJM Dashboard has been specially designed to put out all such information in the public domain. Since JJM Dashboard captures all relevant data pertaining to implementation of the mission, data entry is of paramount importance and all the field units should be sensitized to carry out this basic task meticulously and with due diligence.

Further, very soon DDWS will be undertaking ‘functionality assessment’, which is a periodical sample survey to assess the functionality of water supply schemes and household tap water connections. States/UTs need to sensitize all field units for this critical independent assessment.

Every year, Republic Day provides an opportunity to reflect as well as celebrate our achievements as a nation. This year during the Republic Day Parade, 2022, the department showcased a tableau of innovative and pathbreaking work done under extreme weather and difficult terrain in the UT of Ladakh, which was well appreciated by all. This is the enthusiasm and dedication with which we need to work to take forward the mission towards its objectives and goals.

Let’s welcome Ms. Vini Mahajan, IAS, who has taken over on 3rd January as the new Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation. I am confident that under her leadership and guidance, we will work with more vigour to accomplish the goal of ‘Har Ghar Jal’. I also thank Shri Bharat Lal, my predecessor and the first Mission Director, NJJM, who got transferred on promotion, for his significant contribution.

We must continue to move forward with renewed vigour to realize the goals of Jal Jeevan Mission.
Progressive coverage - Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) (as on 31.01.2022)

Comparative FHTC coverage status of States/ UTs (as on 31.01.2022)
India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

Total number of households (HHs)

- As on 31st January, 2021: 19,27,76,015

Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019

- 3,23,62,838 (16.79%)

Households with tap water connections as on date

- 8,91,06,424 (46.22%)

Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission

- 5,67,43,586 (29.43%)

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

- Goa, Telangana, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Haryana

100% FHTC States/UTs

- 96 Districts
- 1,106 Blocks
- 64,881 Panchayats
- 1,33,154 Villages

As on 15th August, 2019

- Number of AWCs: 9,00,000
- Number of schools: 8,00,000

As on 31st January, 2022

- Number of AWCs: 7,00,000
- Number of schools: 6,00,000

Progress of coverage of tap water supply in schools and anganwadi centres

- Aspirational & JE-AES affected districts

Source: JJM-IMIS
Progress of coverage of tap water supply in schools and anganwadi centres

Progress of piped water supply in schools

![Graph showing progress of piped water supply in schools](image)

Progress of piped water supply in anganwadi centres (AWCs)

![Graph showing progress of piped water supply in AWCs](image)

Progress of coverage of tap water supply in Aspirational & JE-AES affected districts

Tap water connections in Aspirational districts

![Graph showing tap water connections in Aspirational districts](image)

Tap water connections in JE-AES affected districts

![Graph showing tap water connections in JE-AES affected districts](image)
In a span of 29 months since announcement in August, 2019, under Jal Jeevan Mission tap water supply has been provided to more than 5.64 Crore rural households, 8.4 lakh schools and 8.6 lakh anganwadi centres in the country. At the time of announcement of the mission, only 3.23 Crore (17%) rural households had tap water supply, which has now increased to 8.91 Crore (46%). The tap water supply to JE-AES affected districts has also gone up from 3% to 40.22% and in Aspirational districts, it has gone from 7.2% to 39.35%. JJM is removing drudgery faced by women and children in fetching water and changing lives of crores of people in rural India.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, work is going on in most difficult terrains of the country to provide tap water to communities who face severity of climate and lack of drinking water such as in high altitudes of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh or Uttarakhand or in the deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Ministry of Jal Shakti displayed the tableau on Jal Jeevan Mission on 73rd Republic Day parade showcasing how the mission is changing lives and bringing about ‘ease of living’ by improving lives at an altitude of more than 13,000 ft in harsh winter for people of Ladakh by providing clean tap water in homes, schools, anganwadi and wellness centres. The minimum night temperature in Ladakh falls to -20 degree Celsius in winters while it remains sub-zero during the day. Providing clean tap water during extreme winter inside households is very challenging as water sources get frozen, pipes burst and supply lines become inoperative. With lowest population density in the country (2.8 person/sq. km.), villages in Ladakh are scattered and rain fall is scarce. It remains cut off from the rest of country for few months in a year due to closure of passes during winters. This affects the supply of materials badly. Further, most of the water sources are in inaccessible areas and in many areas of Ladakh the water bodies freeze in winters. Under such circumstances, a lot of manpower is required for construction and help of animals & helicopters is taken to lift and transport the material.

Due to freezing temperatures HDPE pipes are used in place of regular GI pipe and main supply lines are laid below frost line. Wherever pipes come above the frost line, they are encased in 4” diameter jacketing of glass wool, wood and aluminum for insulation. Solar power plays an integral role in the water supply chain and ensures continuous flow of water in the pipeline. Through sensor based IoT system, live data on quantity, quality and monitoring can be seen. Women in villages are trained to test quality of water supplied using Field Test Kits (FTKs).

In the tableau, local women were shown conducting water quality test using FTKs. JJM has trained more than 9 lakh women across the country so far. Water testing laboratories in the country are now open for public to get their drinking water tested at nominal rates. A digital board displaying live temperature and real-time data about water supply, chlorination, etc. and progress of the mission was shown as part of the tableau.
An advisory has been issued by Jal Jeevan Mission, guiding the States/UTs how through the use of technology and proper Operation & Maintenance drinking water supply can be assured in homes and public institutions even in high altitude Himalayan States - where temperature dips much below zero during winter season. This is particularly applicable in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Leh, Ladakh and many North Eastern States. In order to ensure that water continues to flow through the pipelines even during sub-zero conditions, the following steps have to be adhered to while building the water supply infrastructure—

- Wherever possible ground water source must be used;
- While planning the water supply system it is important to select such water sources which do not freeze in winter like deep lakes, large ponds, water collected through infiltration gallery near the water bodies below the frost line;
- The pipeline should be laid below the frost line to avoid freezing of water. In places where pipelines are already laid above the frost line there either the pipelines have to be re-laid or insulated along the length;
- As far as possible, HDPE pipes should be used for distribution;
- Use of UPVC pipe has to be discouraged as it turns brittle in chilly winter and adversely affects the water supply;
- Places where water pipeline is above the frost line, it must be insulated using locally available material so that during breakage the repair does not get impacted for want of raw material;
- Air release valves have to be provided at high locations where the terrain is undulating and water drainage valves have to be installed at lower locations. When water is drained from these lower locations it must be seen that water is not wasted. Water is a limited resource which has to be used judiciously, whenever possible reuse and ensure that water from kitchen and bathing areas is used to recharge the ground water table;
- The roof of underground water storage tank has to be designed in such a way so that it is able to take snow load and does not collapse under heavy snowfall;
- Multiple sources of water should be used to supply water in high altitude. These sources must be interlinked so that in times of heavy snow if one source freezes, the other sources are able to provide partial supply essential for drinking and cooking meals;
- The local community must be trained to carry out minor repair, especially during harsh weather as transport and communication will be affected and immediate help from outside will be difficult to reach. Local people will be the only people available to mend the breakdown.

Using modern technique and technology will go a long way in ensuring water through taps in areas which face adverse agro-climatic conditions.
Virtual Museum on Water
Coming soon to spark social change, driven by children and youth

- Nicolas Osbert, Chief WASH, UNICEF India

The Jal Jeevan Mission’s vision is that every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in the living standards of rural communities. This fully echoes the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals for safely managed drinking water adopted globally, positioning India as a critical player in the international dialogue on WASH.

While the provision may be handled by the able public health engineering departments, “regular and long-term” service delivery requires sustainable water practices at the individual and community level. Therefore, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is based on a community approach to water.

This calls for strong emphasis on social and behaviour change, making safe water management practices part of day-to-day lives of every individual, notably children and the youth of India, who can become powerful advocate when approached and sensitized with the right tools and technology. The digital landscape notably offers such opportunity to reach children and young people at massive scale, particularly in the context of India, to nudge individual behaviour.

In this context, the National JJM, with technical support from UNICEF, is working on the development of an innovative Virtual Museum on Water – an online interactive platform, to enlighten children and young people on water and environmental issues, and ignite a sense of ownership to allow for aspirational water savviness and social change.

The increasing playing field of the digital space

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to some significant changes in the day-to-day lives of people across the globe. One somewhat reluctant but欢迎 change, in this respect, has been the increased interface one has with the digital space. This is in part thanks to greater access to the necessary digital tools such as handsets and internet connectivity.

With technological innovation and enabling regulation, and the added incentives and demands for greater online engagement by the COVID-19 pandemic protocols, innovation is also finding new purpose and meaning online.

So let’s prepare for it...

Online platforms are shaping how Indian users think about everything from 'doing' to 'learning'. A doer can access digital monitoring tools, to easily collect and analyze data without the challenges associated with traveling and paper management. A learner has access to unlimited topics, global experts, niche subjects – precious information otherwise not affordable or even imaginable for many. Nowadays, such content is also being developed more mindfully, so that learners of all literacy levels can find information most accessible to them. The latter has been the strongest silver lining over the past two years, as digital platforms were leveraged to train everyone from government officials to grassroots swachhata workers.

Efforts are ongoing with the national flagship programme BharatNet, for example, which seeks to connect all 250,000 Gram Panchayats with broadband connectivity at an affordable price.

The Virtual Museum on Water – creating responsive and enlightened advocates for water

Seizing the budding opportunity, the Virtual Museum on Water is envisioned to build the capacity of communities, especially children and young people, using appropriate platforms to provide them right information suited to their level of understanding, and meeting their aspirations in terms of content and medium. It is meant to also encourage students to think about linkages with climate and environmental issues, and how they affect water availability in their communities.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, an expert committee has been set up to aid the development of the virtual museum, under the
The proposed virtual museum is being planned as an edutainment platform, with theme-based galleries on the various aspects of water. Each theme is composed of sub-themes, topics and sub-topics in a clearly defined tree structure, as illustrated in the figure below. This museum will work as a large, structured multilingual website hosting different types of content such as text, photos, illustrations, videos, interactive quizzes and maps, immersive simulations, animations etc. With button/mouse clicks, visitors would be able to engage in online activities as well.

Furthermore, to mitigate the challenge of the digital divide, the web application is also being designed to adapt content for low internet bandwidths to ensure access across low-connectivity areas, for the poorest and most marginalized.

The museum holdings for children, wherever possible, are being designed to connect with the school curriculum for different stages of primary and secondary school education (class III to class XII) as well as that for the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy level as per the National Educational Policy 2020. The museum is also designed to host content for other community stakeholders on respective topics as relevant to them, and best practices from across the country on the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission for replication by States and Union Territories.

What does the future look like?

Water museums are innovative interactive platforms, displaying a unique repository of people’s connections with water and its natural, cultural, tangible and intangible heritage. There are only few similar initiatives globally – for instance the Netherlands Water Museum and the Water Museums Global Network endorsed by UNESCO - and with India implementing the world’s largest water supply programme, this investment on democratic knowledge dissemination is important, to prepare Indians to fully play their role for environmental issues affecting the country, and to take leadership in the global dialogue on water and climate resilience in a meaningful way.

The Jal Jeevan Mission seeks to breed a generation of water enlightened citizens as it addresses the longstanding challenges of water security in India. The virtual museum is one such step to present a platform accessible for all to learn and question existing situations and practices in the water sector, and even meets the demand for children to gain more information and engage with the impacts of climate change and environmental sustainability as well.

For a quick glimpse at the project, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/virtualmuseumfilm

Figure 1. Indicative storyboard structure of the proposed virtual museum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Gallery</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level Foundation</td>
<td>Wonders of water</td>
<td>Properties of water, sources of water, oceans, rivers, groundwater,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Up till Std. II)</td>
<td>Sources of water</td>
<td>water cycle, rainwater, water and animals, water plants, aquatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Basic (Std. III-V)</td>
<td>Water and life</td>
<td>ecosystems, water, sanitation and hygiene, sectoral use of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Intermediate (Std. VI-VIII)</td>
<td>Uses of water</td>
<td>domestic use, agriculture use, industrials use, water and human</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Advanced (Std. IX and above)</td>
<td>Water challenges</td>
<td>development, drought and floods, level-wise topics for quizzes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~100 sub-topics
T

he State of Haryana became ‘Har Ghar Jal’ on 2nd October, 2021, i.e. every rural house- hold in 6,803 villages across its 22 districts now has provision of tap water supply.

With emphasis on public health and service delivery, the State’s Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has been giving emphasis on water quality monitoring & surveillance (WQMS) activities, viz. upgrading water quality testing laboratories, expediting NABL accreditation, village-level training to five women, school workshops, etc. Out of the total 44 water quality testing laboratories in the State, 25 are NABL accredited/ recognized for all 13 basic water quality parameters, and the process for accreditation is underway for the remaining laboratories.

Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented with a bottom-up approach where the local village community, viz. Gram Panchayat/ Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC), etc. to shoulder the responsibility of ensuring potable tap water supply to every rural home. Understanding that the State's groundwater is affected by constituents like alkalinity, Fluoride, Iron, Nitrate and high levels of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), laboratory testing and community awareness campaigns are given priority.

In this regard, the State has launched a state-of-the-art mobile water quality testing laboratory van in October, 2020, which is fully equipped with multi-parameter system containing analyzers/ sensor/ probes/ instruments based on science of Colorimetry, Electrochem-
The State of Haryana became Har Ghar Jal on 2 October, 2020, which is fully water quality testing and the process for accreditation is underway for the remaining laboratories. Out of the total 44 water quality testing laboratories in the State, 25 are NABL accredited/recognized for water quality testing laboratories. Some other features of the mobile water testing laboratory van that has been uniquely designed and fully loaded with latest technologies, are as under:

- GPS-enabled for location tracking and analyzed sample data can be transmitted to a centralized PHED server via GPRS/3G connectivity with power backup;
- On-site recording and reporting of results through a smart phone, uploading results & photos of the water source directly to server, carry sanitary survey (need-based);
- LED display unit for instant display of the results after analysis; and
- On-site report printing of sample data in appropriate format.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, topmost priority is accorded to the potability of water supplied to the households. This kind of initiative to test water quality and make local community aware of its importance will definitely encourage rural communities to come forward for surveillance of their water quality.
The people of Tangla village held a Gram Sabha, deliberated on the water requirement and the water sources available in their region, constituted a VWSC, developed a Village Action Plan (VAP) with support from officials of Public Health & Engineering Department and submitted it to the district administration. The VAP was sanctioned, and execution of the water supply scheme, as part of a Multi-Village Scheme (MVS), began soon after. Upon completion of the work, PHED officials handed over the in-village water supply infrastructure to the Panchayat representatives - who are its custodians. The MVS benefited 5,043 house-holds spread across 38 villages covering 12 Gram Panchayats.

The joy of people living in Tangla village, Bhergaon block, Udalguri district, Assam knew no bounds when they learnt that they would soon have tap water supply in their homes. They were dependent on water from the nearby spring, river and public stand post. Getting water within the household was a privilege enjoyed by select few. With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, the government aims to make the provision of tap water supply in every rural household thereby bridging the gap between urban and rural people by ensuring 'ease of living' to everyone and ending the centuries-old drudgery of women and girls.

The village Pani Samiti (VWSC) was assigned the responsibility to operate and maintain the in-village water supply system created. To ensure sustainability of the system so created, it was decided to collect user charge from every household receiving tap water. The user charge collected was deposited in the bank account of Pani Samiti and was used to pay electricity bill, pump operator’s salary and carry out minor repairs whenever needed. Based on the principle of equity, an average user charge of Rs 80/- was fixed for every household, presuming that they would be consuming 8,000 liters of tap water on an average every month.

However, with the passage of time it was notice that as water reached every home, the residents took the facility for granted. Taps were left open to flow throughout the time period water was supplied. The result was that houses close to the overhead tank received water but the habitation at the tail end did not get water. Due to excessive usage of water the overhead tank had to be

Water meter acts as a deterrent against water wastage.

The measure taken up by Assam to bring about behavior change is worth replication. With easy water availability in every home, the residents took the facility for granted. Taps were left open to flow throughout the time period water was supplied. The result was that houses close to the overhead tank received water but the habitation at the tail end did not get water. Due to excessive usage of water the overhead tank had to be

Water meter acts as a deterrent against water wastage.
filled thrice a day. It meant use of more and more electricity. All this led to increased O&M cost. The money available in the account of Pani Samiti was not enough to meet the recurring monthly expenditure.

Persistent effort was made by the Pani Samiti explaining to the community that wastage of water had to be stopped. Regular campaigns were run to make people understand that water is a limited natural resource which has to be used judiciously. But many members from the community were unwilling to understand the concerns raised by the fellow residents and Panchayat representatives. Few houses simply refused to close the tap post-usage, which led to the wastage of this precious resource.

As the problem of non-availability of water in certain hamlets reached PHED office, a decision was taken to install water meters in households. It was a means to check specifically which houses were wasting/consuming excess water. Henceforth, the user charges were put under different slabs - ranging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 160 per month for water consumption up to 10,000 liters by a household. But if the water consumed by any family was more than 10,000 liters, then the entire consumption was charged on volumetric basis. In the changed scenario, none of the family wanted to pay more money than what their neighbour was paying. Thus, asking for additional user charge from people who were consuming more water acted as a deterrent against wastage. It was instrumental in bringing about behavioural change. The water meter has enabled the villagers become conscious of water consumption.

Presently, the operational expenses for piped water supply in the village is Rs. 24,000 per month, while the user charge collection is around Rs. 50,000. As of now, water meters have been installed only in few houses but soon this process is expected to be completed for all households. Now, since people are keeping a check on their daily household water consumption, the need to refill overhead tank has been reduced. The average daily water consumption per household, which was 500 liters a few months back is now down to 300 liters.

The measure taken up by Assam to bring about behavior change is worth replication. With easy water availability, the wastage of water will also be a concern, therefore, having a greywater management plan is the need of the hour. A lot of water flowing out of kitchen and bathing area needs to be directed to the plantations, where it will be used for irrigation as well as recharging the ground water table. Funds under Swachh Bharat Mission, MGNREGS and the tied grant of 15th Finance Commission can be utilized to build soak pits and manage the greywater generated in villages to ensure improved sanitation and an assured tap water supply.
The government of Manipur has planned to make provision of tap water supply to all rural households of the State by 2022. Out of 4.51 Lakh rural households in the State, presently around 2.84 lakh (63%) have tap water supply in them.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of water supply schemes requires skilled manpower at the village level. During 2021-22, the Manipur plans to train 1,152 masons, pump operators, plumbers, fitters, motor mechanics and electricians across the State.

District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC), under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer as Member Secretary, adopted a systematic approach for the screening of the trainees for skilling.

The idea behind such systematic screening is to select the right trainees for effective O&M, and most importantly, to create employment opportunities for the skilled human resources in concerned villages.

More than 358 villages of the State have become “Har Ghar Jal” despite various disruptions in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic. PHED, Manipur is working hard to see more and more villages become ‘Har Ghar Jal’ in the coming months by making provision of tap water supply to all households.

Five women from each village have been trained for water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTK). Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) and district officials have been playing a key role in conducting a series of training programmes for water quality testing in villages. Till now over 70% of villages have been covered and the remaining villages will be covered by next month. The department is roping in all existing SHGs in the State, as any committee or group with 90% - 100% women always has positive approach and effectiveness in water & sanitation related activities.

To generate maximum awareness about Jal Jeevan Mission in villages/blocks/districts, extensive use of Audio-Visual medium, along with catchy entertainment programmes, has been undertaken. This ensures maximum participation of the local community, and the participants continue to be present till the end of the programme, so that they have a clear understanding of the programme and also of the way forward. During these awareness activities carried out across the State, competition for community engagement, presentation of facts/coverage, screening of various short videos on J JM, dedicated session to answer any query of villagers, awarding all the winners, etc. are conducted.

ISAs, NGOs and department officials are also focusing on water conservation and strengthening of drinking water sources by creating awareness at all levels about the importance of saving water to attain water security, cleanliness around the water source and tree plantation in the catchment areas, etc.
Greywater management is the need of the hour today. Insanitary living conditions, diseases, and unhealthy surroundings result from poor waste management planning and infrastructure, whether in rural or urban areas.

Presently in rural areas, there is no mechanism for the safe disposal of greywater coming out of households. Greywater is discharged into open drains and disposed of either in open areas or into water bodies, resulting in surface water contamination and mosquito breeding. As a result, liquid waste management has become necessary. If not adequately handled, liquid waste flows unchecked around homes, paths and play areas, posing a serious health risk and providing a breeding ground for disease-carrying insect vectors such as mosquitoes.

Karnataka, community-level soak pits are being built under SBM (G) in convergence with MGNREGS. The goal is to collect waste water from kitchens and bath rooms, rather than allowing it to run along roads and public spaces. Soak pits are typical pits with porous-walled chambers that allow water to soak into the earth slowly.

Case Study: Community soak pits at Mottagondnahalli GP, Ramanagara District

Greywater has been a problem in Rajanpalya and Hosapalya villages of Mottagondnahalli Gram Panchayat, Magadi Taluka, Ramangara District, Karnataka. Greywater used to accumulate in the low-lying areas of these two villages. The stagnant greywater resulted in a plethora of issues, including mosquito breeding, slime accumulation, and a foul odour.

The Gram Panchayat committed to work to find a solution to this long pending issue. A soak pit, commonly referred to as a soak away or leach pit, was prepared. The pit facilitates the gradual infiltration of water into the ground. It is well-covered, which prevents the water from getting exposed to the open environment, which otherwise would have served as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. When the community soak pit was presented as a way to dispose of greywater, most residents were concerned that discharging the wastewater into the ground would pollute and contaminate the groundwater. This might pose a new danger in addition to the already existing danger from the greywater. To deal with this concern of the local community, BCC and IEC campaigns were used extensively to educate them about water pollution and filtration. Gradually, people started to realize that this type of practice would not result in water contamination.

After assessing the suitability of various locations, the Gram Panchayat, with support from MGNREGS, planned to construct community level soak pit (3 m X 3 m X 4 m) at both the out-fall points which are at a safe distance from drinking water source. Each soak pit will cater to the greywater generated from 8 households. The project has been taken up in 2021-22. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,20,000/- (Rs. 60,000/- for each soak pit) and generated 161 person-days of work. The people of these two villages have no more to be concerned about greywater stagnation, which is one of the primary causes of water-borne diseases and epidemics. This also indirectly aids the ground water recharge process, increasing water availability in the area.

“Because the location is in low-lying area, the stagnation of greywater from households resulted in numerous cases of fever and diarrhoea. This soak pit to not only aid in greywater management, but it will also aid in groundwater recharging”, now say the local residents.
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is an aspirational programme aiming to provide functional tap water connections to every household in rural India, ensuring access to adequate safe water. This has placed significant importance on water quality and the adoption of the Water Safety Cycle Approach, in assuring access to safe water to the marginalized communities across the country. The perception of safe water, however, requires careful scrutiny at both the ends – by communities, as well as service providers.

In discussion with development partners (DPs) and the State Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in Rajasthan, a need was found to develop and roll-out a formal online course on water quality management (WQM) for the implementing agencies of the JJM: the Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs), Key Resource Centres (KRCs) and the District Water & Sanitation Missions (DWSMs). Looking to the need of the hour to shift focus on water quality aspects, aligned to the objectives of JJM and Nirogi Rajasthan.

Based on the discussions and agreement with DPs, INREM foundation, a technical partner of UNICEF Rajasthan for scaling up of Integrated Fluorosis Mitigation (IFM) approach in the State, developed a basic course on water quality, which was first rolled out online on 3rd August, 2021. Started with a planning meeting, convened by UNICEF in June 2021, the WQM course was envisaged as a monthly online course offered to PHED, KRCs, ISAs and PRIs for effective roll out of JJM. Currently, 6 batches have been completed from August 2021 till January, 2022 and the 7th batch is currently taking the course this month. From Rajasthan, the first batch for the course had more than 40 participants including PHED and JJM officials. Looking to the dire need of such course in the pandemic for effective roll out of JJM, the course has since been shared with other State networks and has been received well with significant praise and demand. Many states have taken benefit of this programme, specifically PHED, ISAs and JJM district teams from Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. As of January, 2022, nearly 500 participants from 22 states have been part of the innovative WQM course and they are further working as “Water Quality Champions” in their respective territories for creating mass awareness on water quality issues. Of the 500, approximately 250 participants are from PHED, RWSS and related departments such as engineers and chemists, and 150 participants are from NGO/CSOs, comprising KRCs, ISAs and Sector Partners.

The INREM Foundation, with the Water Quality Network including UNICEF as the lead partner, intends to continue the course, till it reaches VWSCs through ISAs, with the hope that it will help strengthen WQMS across States. The Water Quality Management by empowered stakeholders

Online Water Quality Management (WQM) Course for JJM

- Nanak Santdasani, WASH Officer, UNICEF, Rajasthan and Dr Sunderrajan Krishnan, Executive Director, INREM Foundation, Gujarat

Professionalizing Water Quality Management by empowered stakeholders

“I am a Water Quality Champion”

"Indeed all the sessions in WQM delivered by respective trainers so far are excellent and really helpful for enhancing my knowledge, skill and expertise"

You can also became one!!

Visit waterquality.network

Water Quality Network
Network (WQN) has been an initiative promoted by INREM Foundation since 2020, along with collaborative partners, with the objective of promoting wider water quality knowledge sharing in India, in response to the challenges in ensuring access of safe drinking water in rural India. It is a platform for knowledge sharing with specific emphasis on actionable information on field, and for making it easy to have peer-to-peer exchange.

The Water Quality Management (WQM) course is a free online course offered to keen stakeholders every month. On assessment of their candidatures at the end, participants who have successfully completed the course are also given certificates. One can apply for the course here: https://bit.ly/ApplyWQMCourse. The course comprises of 9 sessions each month with 22 modules of content covering WQ Basics, IEC and behaviour change communication, and other JJM related WQM&S actions. These are as below:

One of the things that makes the JJM unique is its focus on community participation and empowerment, and the sustainability of drinking water schemes, especially on issues such as water quality mitigation, that threaten schemes in the long run.

At present, many stakeholders who have undertaken the course are attempting to utilize the offline version of the course content to orient frontline workers in the form of safe water learning cards. Senior PHED official, Mr. Shaitan Singh, Superintending Engineer, who is leading the PHED team at Pratapgarh District, Rajasthan, participated actively in the sessions and was happy to learn more on BCC tools for community sensitization. He emphasized that awareness on water quality, just through posters and wall paintings, as a one-way communication track is not going to serve the purpose, rather there is need for two-way communication along with BCC approaches. Based on the learnings, he has envisioned a plan for community sensitisation on adoption of improved hygiene behaviours, focusing on safe storage and handling of drinking water, in more than 900 villages, preparing his team of consultants for its effective implementation to ensure access to safe water, till it reaches the consumer end. This is also called Water Safety Planning, where water quality analysis reports are timely shared with communities and PHED field staff for taking timely corrective actions to assure sustained water quality, as prescribed in JJM. Similarly, in other States too, the concerned stakeholders are applying the learnings in respective areas for effective roll out of JJM, so it is great recognition of our collaborative efforts to support JJM across States.

As of now, the course is being offered in English and Hindi, but may be formulated for other regional languages, depending on the demand.

Engagement of participants is difficult in online mode, but is being attempted through intensive user engagement approaches such as gaming, interactive questioning, and a series of objective assessment that help to self-evaluate the participants. The occasional longer quizzes are also intended as a learning tool with real-life situations, played out to strengthen decision-making abilities within challenging environments.

All this is being made possible only because of the partners of this course coming forward such as the Water Quality Network. UNICEF has provided guidance on the design and content, whereas Arghyam is enabling the course with digital tools and participatory attestation technologies. Other organizations such as Gram Vikas, People's Science Institute (PSI), Tata Trusts, Water Aid, AKRSP(I), Water for People, WASSAN, and many others are contributing for content and providing support as trainers to the course.

Just as Mr.Shaitan Singh, Mr Ramnivas Meena, Superintending Engineer, PHED, Dungarpur flagged the challenges on nitrate contamination in drinking water and wanted to have more knowledge to tackle the issue. Basis on this, a 2 hour webinar on “Nitrate Matters” was organized by INREM on 19th January, 2022. It is of great impact that senior officials from PHED are taking keen interest on the issue, being Public Health Engineers to ensure access to safe water.
A human can go without food for about three weeks but would typically only last three to four days without water. Water being a prime requisite, a basic human right and, therefore, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.1 emphasizes that by 2030, we achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

As the global water crisis looms over our heads, it is expected to become even more widespread as a result of population increase, climate change, and persistent water infrastructure degradation. This is exactly why achieving good water governance is the top priority for the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) sector and subsequently three of the eight targets of SDG-6 focus on improved water governance.

Broadly, water governance comprises of a range of political, social, economic, and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources and the delivery of water services at different levels of society and for different uses. However, at household level we take water for granted, not realizing that water on demand is actually a luxury. Unfortunately, for far too many girls and women, being burdened with the task of arranging water for all the needs of the household, every single day is a lifelong drudgery.

As per data from UNICEF, girls and women around the world spend a collective 200 million hours a day gathering water. In 8 out of 10 homes without running water, it is the girls who are tasked with lugging heavy containers over extremely difficult terrains.

Understanding that 'We cannot improve, what we cannot measure', the United Nations Office for Project
Services (UNOPS) introduced an innovative participatory approach under the Prime Minister's national flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission, called 'Women Time Use Analysis' to map time use data of women by the women themselves in an open gathering. This data reveals how, partly due to gender norms and roles, men and women spend their time differently. There is an unequal distribution of paid and unpaid work time, with women generally bearing a disproportionately higher responsibility for unpaid work and spending proportionately less time in paid work than men.

This activity was followed by a participatory ‘Water Use Analysis/Water Budgeting’ approach coined as 'Pani Panchayat' by UNOPS. This involves gearing up towards ensuring optimum, equitable and most efficient use of water with the community. As arranging water for the household is mostly considered a woman’s business, she is the best person to do water budgeting and discuss water quality, however since the male members are predominantly the decision-makers and also users of water, their participation involves a greater understanding of mindful use of water and community contribution towards the available resource.

Recently, UNOPS WASH team facilitated a 'Pani Panchayat' at Gram Panchayat Arang, Barmer district of Rajasthan, where UNOPS S3i is a co-investor in a 250MW solar energy project alongside ACME Solar and IFU, the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries. It revealed that women and girls on an average spend 5 hrs. daily fetching water from nearby Tanka (a traditional water storage practice in Western Rajasthan, where water is stored in underground mud plaster or brick masonry cistern, known as 'Tanka') for their households. Piped tap water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission will enable them to use this time more productively, especially to explore opportunities to improve their socio-economic profile by participating in government and private sector livelihood improvement programmes. Many participants, like forty-year-old Shanti, realized that she could use this time to earn an additional income for her family and secure a better future for her daughters and the daughter-in-law.

Moreover, adolescent girls realized that sufficient tap water supply in their homes would not only enable them to manage their hygiene, especially menstrual health, in a much better way but also save them the precious hours spent in fetching it every day. The time saved can be used to focus more on education and skill development.

UNOPS believes in changing lives by empowering women. 'Pani Panchayat' plays a key role in bringing attention by building the evidence. Women’s participation in skill development and then income generation activities increases their mobility, understanding of health and environmental impacts, while also building their leadership abilities as well as ability to express their opinion in a patriarchal system and get their voices heard.

It also gives them financial independence as well as the satisfaction to contribute to the household income. When women gain income and articulation of their strategic and practical needs, social norms about women’s dependency and muted voice tend to diminish. Their voices are heard more in the family and the community.

When women are empowered with safe water for themselves and their families at home, they are empowered to change their world. Access to safe water at home gives women confidence, health and a chance to bring a change in their lives, themselves.
The dawn of 2022 has brought joy in the lives of residents of over 1,000 villages in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, as every household in these villages has been provided with assured tap water supply under the government of India’s flagship programme 'Jal Jeevan Mission'.

As per the JJM-Dashboard, a digital initiative of under the mission to showcase progress made by the States/UTs shows that 1,094 villages have been provided with clean tap water connections since the launch of the Mission in August, 2019.

609 villages have been provided with 100% tap water connection in Kashmir division. It includes 38 villages in Anantnag, 5 in Bandipora, 133 in Baramulla, 72 villages in Budgam, 147 in Ganderbal, 25 in Kulgam, 34 in Kupwara, 66 in Pulwama, 29 in Srinagar and 60 villages in Shopian.

Similarly, in Jammu division, 485 villages have been provided tap water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission. Among all, Samba district tops the list with cent percent FHTC coverage of 109 villages, followed by Doda with coverage of 105 villages and Jammu at third position with 100 percent coverage in 95 villages. In the first phase, 100 percent tap water connections have been provided in Ganderbal and Srinagar districts, which includes 11 blocks, 383 panchayats and 925 villages.

The UT Administration aims to provide tap water connection to all rural households in Jammu & Kashmir by 15th August 2022, when India celebrates its 75th Independence Day. As on date, J&K has provided 4.73 (26%) lakh tap water connections since the launch of the mission.

'1,000 villages becoming 'Har Ghar Jal' is a remarkable achievement by J&K’s Jal Shakti Department and underlines the commitment made by the government to cover every rural household with FHTC before the deadline of 2024', exudes confidently Shri Syed Abid Rasheed, Director, Jal Jeevan Mission.
Odisha

ISA facilitating 'Har Ghar Jal'

People of Narayanpur village in Kankadapal Gram Panchayat located in Dhenkanal district of Odisha were used to fetching water from open well. Nearly 2,250 people reside in this village which is spread in 250 hectares. It was a daily routine for the villagers to walk up to the open well and collect water for drinking and cooking. Multiple rounds had to be taken carrying water filled pots back home, mostly by women and girls, who are the primary care givers in any rural family. For bathing, washing clothes and cleaning animals, water from the village pond was used. As the water body was full of weed it was not fit for human consumption. People in the village had negligible understanding of hygienic surrounding and healthy living. No one in the village had ever seen a tap water connection.

With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, a new scheme was started by the government called 'Har Ghar Jal'. To implement the scheme, tasks enumerated in the guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission were followed. Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department in Odisha engaged Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) for community engagement to implement the programme through Panchayats. Centre for Environment and Development (CED), was engaged to support programme implementation in nine districts viz; Dhenkanal, Jajatsinghpur, Khordha, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Puri, Nayagarh, Angul and Jajpur.

Soon after CED started its work in Dhenkanal, the first task was to ensure community participation. Gram Sabha meeting was called and people were informed about Central Government’s ‘Har Ghar Jal’ scheme under which every rural household was to get tap water by 2024. In order to avail the benefit, specific activities were required to be undertaken.

CED team took a transect walk in the village along with the community to map the existing water resources. Soon a 15-member Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) was constituted as a sub-committee by the Panchayat and its members were assigned the responsibility to support in development of Village Action Plan with guidance from the PHED officials. Keeping in mind their concerns and situation on ground, the community sat together and prepared a problem tree. There were some who looked at possible answers to the problem and a solution tree was ready. A SWOT analysis was carried out to understand the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat. Women and people from the marginalized section including scheduled castes participated in the meeting and voiced their concern.

Taking guidance from the Public Health and Engineering officials an in-village water supply scheme was proposed covering various aspects of the programme. The holistic development plan looked into water source sustainability through
groundwater recharge, took up rainwater harvesting in schools and government buildings to start with and build soak pits for greywater management. The VAP prepared with the consent of all the villagers was approved in the Gram Sabha and presented to the district authority for approval. It was a big day for the people at Narayanpur as soon they were to get tap water connection in every home. Even before the pipelines were laid, the villagers decided to clean the pond. People got together and rendered voluntary service to clean all the water bodies in the village. With combined effort of the villagers the pond has been given a new life.

The aspirational village is now ‘Har Ghar Jal’ and all the 507 households have been provided with tap water connections. The scheme has benefitted 2,255 people including 298 members from the Scheduled Castes. The single village scheme uses ground water to supply tap water in the village. Recharging of groundwater, therefore, becomes important for regular supply and long-term sustainability of water supply scheme.

Five-women lead surveillance committee has been formed by CED which will be responsible for collecting water samples from the source and delivery points to test the quality of water supplied using Field Test Kits.

Centre's assurance for all assistance to States to achieve ‘Har Ghar Jal’

National Jal Jeevan Mission is holding online review meetings with the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs on implementation of ‘Har Ghar Jal’ and ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’. The meeting is chaired by Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation. Additional Secretary, DDWS, ACS Finance and Secretaries in-charge of rural water and sanitation of States/UTs attend the meeting to review the progress and steps to be taken to improve the pace of implementation.

At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August, 2019, 3.23 Crore (16.79%) households out of total 19.27 Crore households in the country had access to tap water supply. In about 29 months, 5.67 Crore households have been provided with clean tap water. The achievement made is noteworthy as the country faced many disruptions like lockdown in the last 2 years as the globe faced Covid-19 pandemic. Working in line with 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vizhwas aur Sabka Prayas', Jal Jeevan Mission’s motto is ‘no one is left out’ and it aims at universal access to potable tap water supply. States of Goa, Telangana, Haryana and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry, D&NH and D&D have ensured 100% household tap connections in rural areas. At present every household in 96 districts and more than 1.33 lakh villages is receiving tap water supply.

To ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, all information about Jal Jeevan Mission is in public domain and the JJM dashboard can be accessed at https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx
UTTAR PRADESH

Jal Jeevan Mission – Fulfilling aspirations

A case study from Baghpat

- Akshay Jain, SWSM, Uttar Pradesh

There is always a moment in our lives which makes us realise the importance of a bountiful resource. Water, which is plentiful in most regions of Uttar Pradesh, has always been easily available to the rural community. It is only in the recent past that over-extraction of this natural resource has triggered an alarm, and needs immediate attention of its beneficiaries.

This case study is from Baghpat district of western Uttar Pradesh, located on the east bank of Yamuna river. Baghpat town has an agriculture-based economy, where water is intensively being used for growing sugarcane. Monu Rana is from a traditional agricultural family of Baghpat, who had his own share of hardships in completing his education. After completing his education, Monu started teaching at one of the private schools in Baghpat. The triggering moment for Monu came in the year 2007, when their tube well - the only source of water for his farm - suddenly dried. Monu’s family was compelled to install a submersible pump to extract water for the fields. This event proved to be an eye opener for Monu, and he decided to dedicate himself for water conservation. Having suffered the perils of over-extraction of a bountiful resource, he says, “I remember my grand-parents talking about extracting water from 10-15 feet; over time this level went down to approximately 40 feet, but now the water level has fallen below 100 feet.

If we continue to extract ground water at the present rate, soon there will be no water to use!”

The first thing Monu did was to bring about a change in the behaviour of his family. Thereafter, he started spreading the message and awareness about water conservation in the village school and to other fellow villagers. In this new avatar, Monu always aspired to become part of some water conservation programme or group working on this theme. As is said, ‘Where there is a will, there is a way’, one fine day Monu came to know about Jal Jeevan Mission. Interested in the Mission and its objectives to provide clean potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country as well...
as promoting water conservation and reuse of waste water, Monu started looking for opportunities to join Jal Jeevan Mission in some role.

Uttar Pradesh State Water & Sanitation Mission (SWSM) steering the Jal Jeevan Mission in the State has empanelled 163 Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) under support activity. ISAs are the backbone of the Mission as they educate, spread awareness and inculcate behaviour change among the beneficiaries about the objectives and benefits of Jal Jeevan Mission. ISAs are key to implement ‘bottom up’ approach, ensuring no one in the community is left out. They are working to create awareness about the need to have tap water in households and ownership of the piped water supply scheme by the village community, handholding villagers in this major transformation and strengthening the 3rd tier of government by educating Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) about their roles and responsibilities for long-term assured water service delivery.

Almost 6 months back, Monu came to know about Gramin Vikas Trust, an empanelled ISA in Uttar Pradesh, which was going to start work in Baghpat. Giving preference to his genuine interest and to realise his dream, Monu decided to leave his 17-year long teaching profession and applied for joining the Mission. His deep interest and dedication resulted in him being selected as the team leader for district Baghpat. His work and methods to convey the importance of water to the community are being praised in the district administration and the media as well. Today Monu is successfully leading the team of community mobilisers and has become an inspiration for others. He is influencing the community through different methods like social mapping, relating health and water, financial benefits to households of JJM, saving time for children and their education, etc.

In his own words, “I leave home daily with this thought that, even if one person is influenced by my message of water conservation, my day is made! Each drop of water that we save is for our future generation. This keeps me motivated.”

JJM’s positive ripple effect is spreading into the sphere of job creation as well. It is providing an effective platform to the aspiring youth to join this social cause and be part of the development journey of New India.
Gujarat

Community mobilization:
A game changer in Dahod

- Tata Trusts

Dahod, an Aspirational District in Gujarat is located at the tri-junction of Madhya Pradesh in the east and Rajasthan in the north. It is predominantly tribal with more than 75% tribal population, and lags behind the national average for most development indicators and relative to other districts in Gujarat, had quite a low penetration of household drinking tap water connections: it was 32.43% against 71% for the rest of Gujarat as on August, 2019. The district is largely rain-fed, agriculture-dependent, and has several rivers — Dudhmati, Panam, Majan, Hadaf, Kali, Khan River.

In the Limkheda block of Dahod, Collective for Integrated Livelihoods Initiatives (CINI) – an extended arm of Tata Trusts - is working in 47 villages as the Implementation Support Agency (ISA) for Jal Jeevan Mission. Using Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques (PRA), CINI is mobilising rural communities and raising their awareness about the benefits of household tap water connections, village drinking water supply scheme under Jal Jeevan Mission, the community role under the Mission, need for community participation in developing Village Action Plan, quality assessment of village water sources and several more of such water-regulatory issues. The ISA is also emphasizing upon water conservation and its rational use and sanitation and hygiene for the general well-being of the rural community. Through this engagement the local community is able to assess its development needs, more so of water and related issues. The initiative is creating a water-literacy in villages.

Polisimal village of Limkheda block is home to 307 households, largely belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and spread across seven habitations. Each habitation in the village depends on individual borewell and open wells for drinking water. The average rainfall of 740 mm in the region is relatively good but erratic. In summers, the situation is often dire. In one habitation that depends on a rivulet for its drinking water, during summers people often have to dig riverbed to draw their drinking water supply. Now that the Mission activities are underway in the village, people of Polisimal are hopeful that their water woes will soon be a thing of the past.
While CINI is spearheading the community mobilisation, awareness raising and community participation in planning the village drinking water scheme, Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO) is leading the programme implementation on the ground. In September 2020, CINI helped Polisimal Gram Panchayat set up its Pani Samiti and ensured that the Pani Samiti has at least one representative from every habitation. Polisimal pani samiti has 11 members, of which 8 are women. In addition, CINI also facilitated all 7 habitations in setting up their habitation-level coordination committee for active community engagement. This brought together all hamlets in the development of the village drinking water scheme.

After the formation of Pani Samiti and hamlet-level coordination committees, CINI delivered two rounds of training to the committees formed and responsibilities of the Pani Samiti in the planning phase and technical specifications of the schemes and responsibilities of the committees in ensuring the quality of construction.

In September 2021, the physical execution of the scheme started. Over 50% of the pipeline work was completed by December-end 2021. The community is taking an active part in the supervision of the works. Dalkiben Ninanma, a middle-aged unlettered woman, is a very active member of the Pani Samiti. When she observed that in Naka faliya, one of the 7 habitations, the pipeline was not laid at the specified depth, she and the hamlet committee members asked the agency to stall further work and re-lay the pipeline as per specifications. Similarly, observant Nanubhai Ravat, a middle-aged matriculate and resident of Dungar faliya, who had attended hamlet-level CINI training, noted that the pipeline joinery work in his habitation was not as per the specifications. He alerted the hamlet level committee and the committee had it fixed. Dalkiben Ninanma and Nanubhai Ravat have shown that they can supervise and lead the implementation of their drinking water scheme.

After the construction of the village waterworks is completed, it will be connected with Limkheda regional water supply scheme. Anticipation of tap water connection in every household has filled the people of Polisimal village with unfathomable joy and enthusiasm.
Sandeep Sahu, a father to a 9-year old daughter and a protective husband from Tungri Tola of Bodhihi village, Tamar block, district Ranchi, Jharkhand was celebrating with his family as clean, potable water started flowing from the tap water connection in his home. Tungri Tola is a small hamlet having around 25 households. Sandeep recalls the time when he had to wake up daily around 4:30 am in the morning to fetch water from the distant hand pump, as he didn’t want his wife and the daughter to venture outside so far. And, now he confides, “There were a lot of difficulties in getting water as the Chapakal (hand pump) was too far from my house. As my house is at the extreme end of the main habitation I couldn’t send my wife and daughter. So, it was I who had to fetch water, loading jars on my bicycle. I used to fetch water four-to-five times daily. And, if the hand pump went out of order, then I even had to travel to other habitations. Many a times I used to be teased by others for doing a woman’s job! But, being a protective husband how could I send my wife and daughter at such odd hours. We always pondered if we ever would get rid of this water scarcity?”

Managing his farm land and the small tiffin shop that he has used to be very difficult whenever the family was visited by a relative, because then most of his time was spent in fetching water. One fine day, the PHED team of Tamar block came to Tungri Tola to survey the land availability for the solar based water supply scheme. They had a meeting with the community as they didn’t find any government land for the bore well and for the overhead tank. Sandeep Sahu came forward and donated
10/10 feet land from his own farm land for construction of the water supply scheme. He also took leadership in monitoring and supervision of the construction work, with the hope that it will bring in 'ease of living' to his family and also to other people of his small hamlet. The water supply structure work started in June 2021 and was completed by October the same year.

The day was not less than a community celebration when the people of Tungri Tola saw clean water coming out of the taps provided in their houses. While elders were pouring blessings, others were expressing gratitude to Sandeep, whose leadership and support got them freedom from perpetual water scarcity. “I am thankful to Jal Jeevan Mission that today water has reached our door step. I am happy that the tap water supply has really brought ‘ease of living’ not only to me and my family but also to the entire Tola”, chuckles Sandeep, the new hero of Tungri Tola.

On 15th August, 2019 at the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, Jharkhand had 5.82% households with tap water connection, which today reaches around 18.26%. Despite pandemic that badly affected the construction works, the State has provided about more than 7.36 lakh new tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission. Today over 10.81 lakh (18.26%) rural households out of 59.23 lakh households in the State have tap water connections. Jharkhand aims to provide every rural household with tap water connection by 2024.

While villagers were busy in celebration, Sandeep felt the urgency for ensuring day to day Operation and Maintenance of the pump, and also how to safeguard the structure from theft and damage by the trespassers. He discussed this with PHED officials and also his community. To further contribute to the common cause, Sandeep is now working as Pump Operator without asking for any wages. During the day he sleeps at the scheme site to protect it from thieves. He is also discussing with community, with support from the village Pani Samiti (VWSC), to contribute monthly water user charges to meet future recurring expenses once the scheme gets handed over to the community by PHED.

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S hri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti, Government of India chaired a workshop on Swachhta and Water Conservation in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh on 12th January, 2021 where he addressed the villagers and spoke about Jal Jeevan Mission.

In very simple terms he explained how it is important to value water provided through pipes and the need to pay user charges as it entails repair work and payment of electricity to pump water and supply it in every home. He said, “we should be ready to pay for the services and not seek grants for all the facilities we avail to ensure ‘ease of living’”. He added, “it is important to keep the water bodies in our neighborhood safe no matter how small it is. It can be a pond, lake, well or a river. We are the custodians of the natural resources and have to responsibility to hand it over safely to our future generation.”

“When the present government decided that the country will be made Open Defecation Free, it was difficult to believe but then we achieved it and our Prime Minister said, “This is not the end but a stepping block to move further and achieve larger goal”. Today we have a goal to provide drinking water through tap in every rural home. For this, Pani Samities are being formed in every village to be responsible for implementation of the water supply scheme. 50 percent members of this committee are women as they are the primary managers of water. The government wants the women to not just be titled as beneficiaries under the programme but believes in empowering them to lead the development work in the village. A five-women surveillance committee is being constituted in the village to check the quality of water supplied in every home. The results of the tests are uploaded on the web portal. The water works department is informed about the contamination for immediate corrective action.”

The Minister urged the community to take part in smaller initiatives of conserving the water body, preserving the resources and keeping the environment safe. The youth have to come forward and shoulder the responsibility of building the nation and taking it to greater heights.

A mass awareness Rath was flagged off to create awareness on water conservation and need to strengthen the water sources in the region. It is a move to inform the villagers living Bundelkhand region about the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ scheme and its salient features. Bundelkhand region is spread over 7 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 6 districts in Madhya Pradesh. The region faces water scarcity especially in summers for which 22 big multi-village-schemes have been taken up by the Mission to provide water in 9,240 villages thereby reaching 1.09 Crore population.
JJM: action on the ground

Tamil Nadu

A team from the National Jal Jeevan Mission visited the State of Tamil Nadu from 8 to 11th Dec 2021. The team visited eight villages in 2 districts, i.e. Vellore and Tiruvannamalai, to understand the implementation of JJM on the ground, key issues and challenges, suggest measures to speed up the implementation and document good practices. In addition, the District collector, Vellore and Project Director, DRDA, Tiruvannamalai were debriefed along with their senior officials, about various aspects of the visit. During the visit, interaction held with the TWAD and DWSM officials, members of Gram Panchayat, VWSC and the local community. In 2021-22, the State has provided FHTCs to 11,79,135 (25.6%) households against the planned 46,00,167. In the upcoming last quarter, the State is to provide about 34,21,032 FHTCs and the State must plan accordingly for faster implementation and fund utilization. As of date, tap water connections in schools and anganwadi centres are about 100% respectively. However, facilities for handwashing facilities are found to be not adequate in a few schools during the field visit. It is suggested that provision for handwashing stations as well as piped water for use in toilets be made at the earliest.

Jharkhand

A multidisciplinary team of 6 members from the National Jal Jeevan Mission visited the State of Jharkhand during 14-17 December, 2021. The team visited 26 villages in 3 districts of the State i.e. Ranchi, Purbi Singhbhum and Sareikela to understand the implementation of JJM on the ground, key issues and challenges, suggest measures to speed up the implementation and document good practices. During the visit, the team interacted with the SWSM/DWSM officials, members of Gram Panchayat, VWSC and local village community. The State senior officials informed that ensure tap water connections in remaining schools and anganwadi centres will be provided by Department of Panchayat Raj. The visiting team suggested the State to co-ordinate with Department of Panchayat Raj to make provision of tap water supply in all schools and anganwadi centres by 31st March, 2022. There are 572 ‘Har Ghar Jal’ villages in Jharkhand. The team requested the State officials to verify details on ground and reconcile data on the IMIS to facilitate the Har Ghar Jal certification process.

Snippets

Vini Mahajan joins as Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

On 3 January 2022, Ms Vini Mahajan joined as Secretary, in the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS). She will be steering Central government’s two flagship programmes: ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ and ‘Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen’. She is a 1987 batch IAS Officer from Punjab cadre, who served as Chief Secretary Punjab before moving to the centre. She replaced Shri Pankaj Kumar who relinquished his additional charge as Secretary, DDWS in the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Welcome to the new Secretary

National Jal Jeevan Mission bid farewell to its first Mission Director, Shri Bharat Lal, who joins his next posting on promotion. He was associated with the mission from the very beginning, having joined it on 25 July, 2019; and from day one, was involved in the conceptualisation, approval, framing guidelines and the roll out of the mission. Shri Bharat Lal was also the Editor-in-Chief of the Ministry’s newsletter, Jal Jeevan Samvad.
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Jal Jeevan Samvad

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