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Kachora village of Agra in U.P. There was a shortage of fresh water in this village for many years. Meanwhile, Kunwar Singh, a farmer of the village found water in his field 6-7 km away from the village. It was a matter of great joy for him. He thought... why not serve all the other villagers too with this water! But, 30-32 lakh rupees were needed to transport the water from the farm to the village. After some time, Kunwar Singh’s younger brother Shyam Singh came to the village after retiring from the army, and he came to know about it. He handed over all his money received on retirement for this work and by laying a pipeline from the farm to the village; he supplied fresh water to the villagers. If there is dedication, seriousness towards one’s duties, how even a single person can change the future of the whole society, this endeavor is a big inspiration.

PM’s address in the 89th Episode of ‘Mann Ki Baat’ on 29/05/2022

Pucca houses to more than three crore poor, open defecation free facilities for more than 10 crore families, freedom from smoke to more than 9 crore poor sisters, electricity connection to more than 2.5 crore poor families, tap water to more than 6 crore families, free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh to more than 50 crore Indians! These are not mere statistics, my brothers and sisters, but proof of our commitment to ensure the dignity of the poor.

Excerpt from PM’s address at the inauguration of a Multi Speciality Hospital in Atkot, Gujarat, 28th May, 2022.
Out of 6.02 lakh villages in the country, as of now, more than 1.5 lakh villages have already achieved 100% tap water supply to all households, as reported by States. In another 1.6 lakh villages, water supply works are at different stages of completion. Out of 19.15 Crore rural households, now more than 9.60 Crore households have tap water supply. Since announcement of the Mission in August, 2019, the coverage has increased from 17% to 50% with provision of new tap water connections to 6.27 Crore households. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, priority areas have been identified for providing tap water supply. As a result, in 117 Aspirational districts, out of total 321.60 lakh rural households, tap water supply increased fivefold from 26.39 lakh (8.21%) to 146.98 lakh (45.70%) households. Similarly, in 61 JE-AES affected districts spread across 5 States, out of 292.22 lakh rural households, tap water connection increased more than 16 times from 8.02 lakh (2.74%) to 131.97 lakh (45.16%) households, in a short span of 33 months, changing the lives of people, especially women and children.

In the recently concluded Garib Kalyan Sammelan held on 31st May, 2022, Hon’ble Prime Minister interacted with beneficiaries of various welfare schemes. It was heartening to note that many beneficiaries expressed their happiness and shared how tap water supply in their homes has brought qualitative changes in their lives. We have to sustain all these good initiatives and make all out efforts for time-bound implementation of the Mission to ensure ‘Har Ghar Jal’ by 2024.

Progress of Mission works in last few months has been adversely impacted due to fluctuation of prices of raw materials. But this temporary phase will be over soon. 2022-23 is the most crucial phase of the Mission. Annual Action Plan for 2022-23 for all States have been finalized after detailed discussions. Preparation of DPRs, tendering, award of works of remaining works are some of the key priorities for the next 2-3 months, so that actual implementation on ground starts without delay. States/ UTs have also been advised to ensure that potable tap water supply is immediately provided and completed in quality-affected habitations either through PWS or where needed, purely as an interim measure, through installation of community water purification plants for supply of potable water @8-10 lpcd for drinking and cooking purposes, in remaining schools, anganwadi centres, in Aspirational and in JE-AES affected districts.

The long-term objective of Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide assured water supply and service delivery. It is therefore essential to ensure that water supply infrastructure is planned with a proper design period. Since water supply infrastructure is not immune to natural calamities especially in hilly areas, flood and cyclone prone areas, disaster resilience of water infrastructure needs to be a focus so that drinking water supply does not get disrupted in such situations.

As Mission Director, this is my first edition of the Samvad. Appreciating the concerted efforts made by all stakeholders, I hope the States/ UTs and other stakeholders to continue with the work with focussed approach in 2022-23 to ensure tap water connection is provided in every rural household.

[Vikas Sheel]
Addl. Secretary & Mission Director
National Jal Jeevan Mission
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As on 31st May, 2021

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

- Total number of households (HHs): 19,13,14,155
- Households with tap water connections as on 15th Aug 2019: 3,23,62,838 (16.75%)
- Households with tap water connections as on date: 9,61,51,723 (50.26%)
- Households provided with tap water connection since launch of the Mission: 6,37,88,885 (33.34%)

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
- 100% FHTC Districts: 108
- 100% FHTC Blocks: 1,222
- 100% FHTC Panchayats: 71,892
- 100% FHTC Villages: 1,51,738

As on 15th August, 2019

As on 31st May, 2022

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

Progress of piped water supply in schools

Progress of piped water supply in anganwadi centres (AWCs)

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

Tap water connections in Aspirational districts

Tap water connections in JE-AES affected districts
As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate the Indian independence, a mega-programme was held at Shimla on 31st May, 2022 where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with beneficiaries of various welfare schemes. There were many who spoke on how tap water supply within the household has ended their drudgery and brought ‘ease of living’ with dignity. Shri Tashi Tundup from Leh – Ladakh, an ex-army person and Shri Pankaj Sahani from West Tripura shared their experiences with the Prime Minister on the occasion and have received benefits under 'Jal Jeevan Mission' scheme are. The beneficiaries their joy and gratitude as they received relief under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala, Ek Rashtra Ek Rashan Card, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan, Swachh Bharat Mission and now Jal Jeevan Mission.

While addressing the people Prime Minister said, “I am happy to know that Himachal Pradesh is doing very good work in this direction. Himachal has already covered 90% of the households under the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojana' and 100% coverage has been achieved in Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba and Hamirpur districts.”

The gathering was held at Ridge Maidan in Shimla where public gathered in huge numbers. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh thanked the Prime Minister for giving the State a special status which enabled support of 90% Central fund against 10% State share in central schemes. The Prime Minister announced the release of the 11th instalment of fund under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. It enabled transfer of Rs 21,000 Crore to more than 10 Crore beneficiaries across the country.
Rains replenish surface and ground water, the major source for drinking water in most parts of the country. It recharges aquifers, fills up ponds, farm ponds, dams, reservoirs, wetlands and every depression on earth and gets stored as a surface water source. Uninterrupted service delivery during monsoon season requires meticulous preparation by all stakeholders as well as by the end users. By the time the article is published, the monsoon would have already covered reasonable stretches of the country.

This article gives a guide on preparatory activities required and is to be treated as indicative and not exhaustive. The activities are broadly classified into four headings viz. precautionary measures, alternative arrangements at times of failure, cleaning and disinfection activities, institutional arrangements & reporting and follow-up system.

A. Precautionary measures

i.) Ensure access pathways inside the water treatment plants/pump houses, over-head/under-ground storage facilities are clear of vegetation/obstructions/debris;

ii.) In case of villages/locations where source and storage at separate places, repairing the damages to access roads to them may be taken up with maintenance authorities/GPs;

iii.) In case of infiltration wells/collector wells in riverbeds, the sand eroded portion near them needs to be rebuilt up with sand;

iv.) Exposed electrical cables and connecting main should be fully insulated and armoured for any possible/unforeseen damages in the riverbed.

v.) For head-works, based on experience, carry out flood protection works so that water does not enter the pump houses/sumps. This is mandatory for headworks in low lying areas in submergence or in valley reaches.

vi.) If necessary, lift the electromechanical equipment prone to damage by flood above the expected HFL to avoid their submergence. Also identify risks of flood water contamination into the distribution network/water treatment units to ensure that the systems do not fail or O&M outages are avoided.

vii.) Remove the clogged sand filters and refill them with fresh sand, if required;

viii.) Based on experience, identify and stock possible pipeline lengths required for rectifying damages in vulnerable areas and ensure availability of other spare parts like joining materials, valves, etc. required for carrying out repairs in short notice;
ix.) Check the earthing cables of electrical connections and repair them, if necessary. Also, ensure the electrical connections points are not exposed to rain/ excess moisture. Check insulation of all the joints in the electrical cables and repair them, if necessary;

x.) In case of metal ladders affixed to over-head water tanks, pumps houses, etc. check the fasteners/ welding to ensure their stability;

xi.) Ensure hand pumps in villages are repaired and can be used as a standby, in case of failure of local source; test the water from these hand pumps for their potability and contamination, if any;

xii.) Repair of Broken hand pump platforms and surroundings of the ground level reservoirs and other structures where there is threat of rainwater/ wastewater contaminating the ground/ surface water sources;

xiii.) Repair of damaged components of water supply infrastructure wherever there is threat of contamination, pipelines, ground level water storage structures etc.;

xiv.) Check the working of the chlorinators and keep stock of the chlorine for regular chlorination;

xv.) Identify alternate sources of water to use at the time of failure of functional sources due to any reason;

xvi.) Be vigilant to prevent stagnation of rainwater in pipe stacks;

xvii.) Train the members of VWSC/ Pani Samiti for cleaning of water storage structures and ensure their disinfection. This part to be especially accorded priority in hilly areas since raw water in such areas appears pristine from protected spring sources, however, there could be bacteriological contamination carried from the upstream and which could be thermotolerant and may not be removed just by boiling the water prior to consumption;

xviii.) Ensure removal of silt/ debris, etc. from soak-pits/ community soak pits around public stand posts/ hand pumps;

xix.) Make sure lightening arrestors are in place or in working condition (proper earthing is available) in all overhead tank/ reservoir; and

xx.) Reviving, cleaning/ desilting and disinfecting of traditional water structures to facilitate optimum collection of rainwater, to help providing alternative arrangements and long-term sustainability of groundwater resources.

B. Alternative arrangements in case of failures

i.) Ensure that departmental generator sets are functional and adequate stock of diesel for running them is available;

ii.) Prepare contingency plans to meet any failure situation. This plan, to be prepared by executive engineers of maintenance divisions, by identifying the reliable/ proven vendors/ suppliers along with their address and mobile numbers for immediate hiring of:

   a. generator sets with different capacities;
   b. tanker lorries with different capacities;
   c. tractors with trailers;
   d. earth work equipment;
   e. diesel pump sets for dewatering;
   f. technicians/ labour for handling electro-mechanical equipment and other works; and
   g. List of fuel outlets who concur for supplying diesel without any interruption.

iii.) Identification of alternate sources of water in case of source failure due to any reason.

C. Cleaning and disinfection activities

Effect of monsoon on quality of raw water depends upon source of water. If source is surface water body, it may have increased total suspended solids, increase in bacteriological contamination. Further, there could be increase in presence of pesticides, fertilizers due to surface runoff, if source is surrounded by agricultural field. Change in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) will depend upon the characteristics of top soil and land use in the catchment area. If source is groundwater, then significant changes in bacteriological contamination do not take place unless groundwater table is very high (within 5 metres below ground level). If high TDS in groundwater is already a problem, monsoon rain may lead to its slight reduction due to possible dilution. Also, change in presence of pesticides and fertilizers would be not as significant as in the case of surface water. But, bacteriological contamination has always been a major issue, as increase in water-borne diseases are reported every year in various parts of the country during monsoon. The following activities are suggested:

i.) Ensure cleaning and disinfection of all water retaining structures;

ii.) Accordingly, train VWSCs/ Pani Samitis in advance, wherever possible;
Local village community of Hampi in Karnataka are working for water conservation.

iii.) Cover all air vents in sumps and overhead tanks with mosquito nets to prevent entry and breeding of mosquitoes;

iv.) Stock adequate quantity of bleaching powder for disinfection and water quality testing kits (e.g., Chloroscopes for residual chlorine);

v.) Ensure online chlorinators are functional with adequate chemicals;

vi.) Chlorination of hand pump during the monsoon may be advised twice a month;

vii.) Avoid stagnation of water around sumps, OHTs, water treatment plants and public stand posts, ensure functioning soak pits;

viii.) Create awareness to avoid water storage more than two days to avoid mosquito breeding;

ix.) Awareness about household drinking water handling and treatment;

tax.) Ensure availability of FTKs with VWSCs/ Pani Samis for testing, reporting and treatment of water supplied;

xi.) Sanitary survey of all the water sources of community and institutions to check and stop all contamination points/ pathways; and

xii.) Bacteriological testing of all water sources/ terminal points (preferably local level using H$_2$S vials), conveying results to community/ institutions for facilitating corrective measures.

D. Institutional arrangements

i.) Set up/ activate an emergency preparedness service cell at headquarters, for coordination of activities/ emergencies caused to heavy down pours or cyclones;

ii.) PHED/ RWSS to be close contact with meteorological department so as to assess the emergency needs well in advance;

iii.) Set up a toll-free number/ whatsapp number and give them wide publicity for receiving the complaints from public and have dedicated teams to monitor them on 24 x 7 basis;

iv.) Encourage local officers to create social media groups to be in touch with GPs/ VWSC members for receiving emergency messages;

v.) Active coordination with Health Department for provision of services through ASHA/ ANMs, for awareness on water handling practices, testing, treatment and active surveillance of water-borne diseases;

vi.) Divide State into convenient operational areas and post nodal officers for taking up field inspections periodically for identifying the vulnerable areas/ equipment/ structures;

vii.) Develop formats for sending the inspection reports of nodal officers and the tour programme of these officers to be shared with the emergency cell for monitoring and follow-up;

viii.) Senior officers at the level of Chief Engineers/ Superintending Engineers to ensure remedial measures based on inspection reports; and

ix.) Sanctioning of leave at the time of monsoon period may be done judiciously without hindrance to day-to-day operations.

While the above preparations are indicative, the situation may vary from State to State and the preparations have to be customised to suit them. Such preparations would help to ensure uninterrupted water supply, prevent outbreak of water-borne diseases and sustain the ease of living of people in our villages during the monsoon.
Over the last decade, over-exploitation of groundwater, erratic & decreasing trend of rainfall pattern, increased water contamination and reduced ecological flows have put the State of Uttar Pradesh (UP) into a critical and challenging situation, evidently, a water crisis despite of being blessed with a very rich river system and having one of the world’s most extensive groundwater reserves. UP is largely depending on groundwater to meet its water demands and the threat of climate change is likely to affect the State’s water security with extreme events of flooding and droughts. The NITI Aayog’s 'Composite Water Management Index (2018)' underlines that in spite of being part of the Indo-Gangetic plain, traditionally known for good rainfall and large-scale ground water potential, states like UP have a trend of declining water table with 138 blocks falling under semi-critical, critical, and overexploited category, which is quite alarming, posing a challenge to ensure sustained access to water.

The State has signalled its intent by taking up several notable initiatives launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti that address water security - Jal Jeevan Mission, Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, National Mission for Clean Ganga, among others. Hence, a very favourable enabling environment has already been created at the highest level. It is now important to leverage on this to make a difference on the ground. The Jal Jeevan Mission presents a unique opportunity to prioritize source sustainability and water conservation measures by promoting recharge through rainwater harvesting as well as recharge and reuse of greywater. During the recent launch of ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA): Catch the Rain 2022’, Union Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said, “the usage of water is increasing but its availability is decreasing, and rainfall patterns are changing. By 2050, the demand for water would rise from 1,000 billion cubic metres to 1,400-1,500 billion cubic metres. So, we must move ahead with a positive attitude and take effective steps.” UP ranked as the best state in water conservation efforts for 2020 which is expected to have a lasting impact towards sustainability of drinking water sources as the efforts continue.
UP which generates 9,727 MLD wastewater, highest in the country and accounts for almost 25% of the total wastewater generated, can significantly contribute towards minimizing the water stress through reuse of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes and for groundwater recharge. Looking at the possibilities of contamination, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) recommends the use of treated wastewater as a source of artificial groundwater recharge once it meets the standards. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has also issued wastewater reuse policies with discharge and reuse standards. There are number of centralised and decentralised options available offering cost-effective treatment methods. While soak pits or kitchen gardens are suggested at individual household levels; larger community pits, waste stabilization ponds, duckweed pond and constructed wetlands could be considered as viable options at the community level. The SBM Phase-II guidelines also advocates for greywater management in villages alongside piped water supply facilities being provided/proposed under JJM.

In this backdrop, Aga Khan Foundation as a sector partner to JJM is facilitating the primary treatment of greywater through the Panchayat before it is released to surface water bodies. For example, in village Mirzapur Mafi, Sitapur district, the Panchayat has prioritised the cleaning of pond through establishment of floating wetland and other bioremediation measures to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in the water. Fishing is also promoted in the pond.

In order to ensure reduction of BOD and low sludge production, an anaerobic baffled reactor is also planned to be installed on this site. With 25KLD capacity, the anaerobic baffled reactor would help to raise the groundwater table and restore the natural ecosystem of the pond.

Similarly, a greywater treatment system at Village Gothi, Bahraich District has been introduced to treat about 4,000 litres per day. The treatment system involves Ultra filtration, sand and carbon filter followed by chlorination. The recycled water is being used for groundwater recharge.

In certain villages like - Bahargain, Lalpur and Shivpuri of Bakshi ka Talab Block in Lucknow and Ganera, Mukeempur and Bibipur of Sidhauli block of Sitapur district, GPs/ VWSCs and community members are including proactive measures like tree plantation, desilting of ponds and water conservation activities in their GP development plans.

The key priority for Aga Khan Foundation is to strengthen community level processes to reach out to the unreach - ensuring last mile coverage with household tap water connections, prioritising asset management at GP level, strengthening decentralised community-based management of JJM rural water supply schemes by structured post-construction support and ensuring functional convergence at programme level and promoting the efficient utilization of the MNREGA and 15th FC tied funds for source sustainability and water safety. In the districts of Sitapur and Lucknow, a set of 40 villages have been identified where piped water supply schemes will be supported by source strengthening measures and a network of observation wells has been identified, where impact of recharge measure and groundwater abstraction will be monitored.

Going forward along with community engagement at mass scale, efforts are being made to empower GP/ VWSCs towards maintenance of water supply systems as well as source augmentation measures. A paradigm shift towards a participative, multidisciplinary approach for water supply programmes, with a focus on water security measures, and modern data management systems will help to sustain the rural water supply services as envisaged under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Greywater Treatment System at villages Mirzapur Mafi, Sidhauli Block, District Sitapur, UP
If one wants to see how Jal Jeevan Mission is bringing about a change in the life of the rural people, one can see it in the smile of a young school-going girl Ms. Mahesh from Chatrampuliangulam village of Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu. "Earlier we had to go to the public stand post just to get water for daily needs, which was not even of good quality. The irregularity of supply hampered our daily routine, especially my studies. I have missed my school several times in the past due to this. Now, we are getting clean water at our doorstep only because of Jal Jeevan Mission. The time I save is being utilised for my studies" said Ms. Mahesh.

Virudhunagar is an Aspirational district and Chatrampuliangulam, an SC concentrated village, located 45 km away from the district headquarter, where before the implementation of JJM, villagers were obligated to walk nearly half an hour daily to fetch water from nearby hand pumps, ponds and community stand posts.

After the launch of Mission, Smt. Kavitha, Chairperson of VWSC convened a Gram Sabha to work towards preparation of the Village Action Plan (VAP) with a view to eliminate once and for all, the age-old drudgery of women in her village. To fulfil this dream, she undertook thorough discussions and rigorous planning with Gram Panchayat members to identify the source for the village, position the construction of the OHT such that each and every household is benefited equitably. Various meetings were also held with PHED engineers to realise this plan into action.

"The preparation of VAP was the first step and most important step, very soon after which our dream came true. Now every household of our village is getting 55 LPCD clean water at their doorstep, which was earlier much lesser. We have also utilised 15th FC funds to prepare soak pits near the tap connections, so that greywater can be managed" she said.

Other women from the same village have also expressed their gratitude towards the government and JJM for providing clean tap water, since they no longer have to walk miles to fetch water. Their lives have inadvertently improved. The two schools in the village, the anganwadi centre and the Public Health Centre (PHC) have also been connected with clean tap water under Jal Jeevan Mission.

The Gram Panchayat has identified five women for conducting sanitary inspection, perform Water Quality, Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) activities including conducting water quality testing using Field Test Kits (FTKs). Apart from the constitution of Pani Samiti, with Smt. Kavitha leading from the front, there is a team of local technicians - one plumber; one pump operator and one barefoot technician, available 24x7, so that unperturbed supply of water is ensured. Hope that very soon, the story of Chatrampuliangulam village becomes the story of every village in India.
Mizoram

Sailam: A model village for sustainable rural water supply

- PHED, Mizoram and Rana R.K. Singh, NJJM

In a land of hills and valleys of Mizoram, when most part of the State is facing water scarcity, many villages are getting water only once a month, the village Sailam, in Aizawl district has a different story to tell. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, Sailam transformed from a water scarce village to a water-sufficient model village with 24x7 community-managed water supply.

Sailam is located 4,400 ft. above mean sea level in the abode of lush green mountains, where annual average rainfall is more than 2,000 mm, despite which, the Sarpanch of the village, Mr. Zohmingsiama narrates how in the past, women and young girls used to daily carry out the arduous task of fetching water from long distances. Initially, the local community with the help of PHED built a storage tank to collect water from a nearby spring source and pumped it to a reservoir to supply water to seven stand points. The community came together and agreed to give their wages of 100 days to pay for the cost incurred towards electricity bill. Later on, in order to minimize high recurring cost of energy for operation & maintenance, a solar plant was commissioned under NABARD funding and distribution line including house connection was completed under JJM scheme catering to 164 households.

Solar Energy – a sustainable solution

Mizoram, being in the tropical region, receives approximately 4.5 kw/ sqm/ day solar insolation having 300 sunshine days. To leverage solar potential, Govt. of Mizoram has notified Solar Policy, 2017. As per National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Mizoram has solar potential of 9.09 GW.

Water from Legleh stream is conveyed to sedimentation tank by gravity and then underground sump from where it is lifted to 900 KLD reservoir through solar pumps (1 working + 1 Stand by) of duty 9.7 cum/hr, 164 m head. Water from the reservoir located at the highest level is fed to individual households as well as zonal reservoir of capacity 700 KLD by gravity system. Zonal reservoir is also fed by an alternative spring source. Existing source as well as infrastructure has been well integrated with the new scheme to optimize cost and ensure 24x7 adequate and potable water at nominal cost.

Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committee – a public utility approach

Sailam is a 'Har Ghar Jal' village, and the scheme was handed over to WATSAN committee on 7th October, 2020 for operation and maintenance. The WATSAN committee has taken complete ownership and is fully responsible to manage the scheme independently. PHED, Mizoram has
played an instrumental role in planning and implementation of infrastructure as well as in providing handholding support to the WATSAN committee in the village, but the community was involved since the very beginning in planning of the scheme and has contributed in terms of cash, kind and labour in the spirit of JJM.

Water meters have been installed by villagers at their own cost, and actual consumption-based water service charge is applicable which also promotes water conservation. The current water service charge is Rs. 0.04/liter and is collected on monthly basis. As Sailam is a water sufficient village, the excess water is being used in helping adjoining water scarce villages by providing water at Rs. 150 per Kiloliter, which acts as an additional source of revenue generation for them.

The average monthly expenditure for O&M is Rs. 8,000, whereas monthly collection is approx. Rs. 35,000. The committee currently has a positive cash flow of more than Rs. 4 Lakh, which will prove handy in long-term management of water supply.

The community has also taken up an initiative to protect 30 acres of forest, in the catchment for existing spring sources to ensure long-term source sustainability. Some of the villagers have donated their own land voluntarily for watershed development.

Local pump operator has been trained, who is responsible not only for O&M of water supply system, but to generate bills based on water consumptions, collect monthly water service charge from each household, keep records of daily water consumption and expenditure in O&M, water quality test through FTKs, maintain a complaint register etc. Sailam has the credit of having the best WATSAN Committee in SBM 2019 and continues to do exemplary work in JJM as well. The overwhelming joy on the faces of the community reflect the success of Sailam as a model that can be replicated by other parts of Mizoram and other States.

Freedom from Illness

Now over 8.61 lakh schools and around 8.91 lakh anganwadi centres start receiving clean tap water supply
Rahumcherra village of North Tripura district faced acute water crisis for many years and its inhabitants were forced to travel a long distance in search of water for drinking and other household chores. This impacted their monthly income as a lot of time was spent on fetching water and on many occasions, this impacted their work as multiple rounds were needed to collect water especially during the dry spell.

For daily water needs, the villagers were dependent on hand pumps and ground water sources. During summers the water depleted in most sources, leaving very little water for the residents. This in turn led to water scarcity and people queued up to fill their pots. With limited water availability, at times people engaged in quarrels and fights coupled with longer walks in search of new water sources to quench their thirst. When the problem became acute water was supplied by the administration through water tankers, but the supply was inadequate to meet the daily domestic requirements.

Looking at the gravity of the situation an attempt was made by the water supply department to develop a groundwater-based scheme so that piped water could be provided to the community, but the effort turned futile due to non-availability of a suitable aquifer. The situation posed a serious challenge to the department, but they did not give up. Instead, they conducted a field survey to assess the ground situation and locate a reliable water source which could be used to supply piped water to its residents. Ultimately, after a long-drawn investigation, a perennial water source was located - a stream passing through Vallukhcherra habitation and a scheme was developed.

A surface-based water treatment plant was set up under Jal Jeevan Mission. The infrastructure developed included a dry pit pump house on the bank of the stream to enable water collection, a 19000 LPH capacity pump set was also installed. From here the water was pumped to RCC sedimentation tank which had 1200 KL capacity water storage facility. The water then passed through RCC tray aerator to the water treatment units. The filtered water is stored in RCC Clear Water Reservoir which is then pumped to individual households through tap connections.

The cost of the project is 3.2 Crore which provides water to 140 households of Binanda Para, Birendra Para and Vallukhcherra and later, 70 households of Rahumcherra will also be covered. Three anganwadi centres and one school are also getting potable water for its children. The scheme was developed following JJM guidelines. A Village Action Plan (VAP) was developed through active participation of the community ensuring presence of women from the very beginning. The villagers helped in identification of the water source and were instrumental in implementation of the scheme. A Water User Committee has also been constituted.

Availability of water in every household of Vallukhcherra has ended the drudgery faced by women and young girls. The time saved from collecting water is now being used in economic activities which help improve family income.
Jal Jeevan Mission recognizes the critical role of women for rural water supply and empowers people to test the water supplied in their homes. At least five persons, especially women, in every village are trained on using Field Test Kits (FTKs) to test water quality. In line with this, the Government of Chhattisgarh has engaged 1,00,000 women leaders as 'Jal Bahini(s)' across 19,000 villages. The group of Jal Bahinis, also referred to as 'Jal Vahini', functions as water warriors for all the aspects of drinking water governance in villages including effective implementation of the programme as members of Pani Samiti/VWSC.

Jal Vahini’s major role is to ensure:
A) Effective participation of community in the implementation of JJM through community mobilization;
B) Interpersonal communication for water tariff collection;
C) Opening and maintaining account including O&M revenue and expenditure;
D) Periodically organizing 'Jal Sabhas' to sensitize community on concerns related to water quality testing results, importance of potable water, health impacts of contaminated water;
E) Sanitary survey and awareness generation.

As on date, 260 ISAs are actively working in 16,000 villages and supporting DPMUs in implementation of JJM programme to translate the vision of 'Har Ghar Jal' by 2024. The State plans to become HGJ State by 2024. In order to promote the water quality and conservation, these 'Jal Bahinis' have also created a folk song highlighting the importance of potable tap water and its rationale use.

The initial lines of song are as follow:
\[ \text{Paani re paani re bhaiya} \\
\text{piye ke paani,} \\
\text{sabke jingani re bhaiya,} \\
\text{piye ke paani} \]

Watch the song, click here: https://youtu.be/ubbhvREQC3w
‘Mor Gaon Mor Paani’: Statewide campaign on conservation and prudent use of water

Mor Gaon Mor Paani’ (My Village My Water), a month-long campaign was conducted from 22 March to 22 April 2022 (World water day to World Earth Day) by PHE Department, Chhattisgarh.

Inspired by the vision and appeal made by Prime Minister for “Jal Sanchay”, so far over 1,76,596 women, 39,994 Anganwadi workers, 1,72,477 children, 39,352 youth, 11,000 PRIs, government functionaries, NGOs and VWSCs are involved by conducting ‘Jal Samvads’ and Jal Addas in every village.

During 'Jal Samvads', the objective is to provide hands-on information about the programme and empower local village communities with wide range of simple affordable and doable solutions on

A) groundwater recharge using soakage pit, injection wells, silt traps, percolation tanks;
B) safe management of water, by ensuring taps are turned off after usage;
C) reuse of greywater in kitchen, garden, & toilet, and;
D) prudent use of water.

The tribal district, Bastar showed outstanding performance among all other participating districts. At the outset of World Water Day, district launched the campaign at a gala event in collaboration with Collectorate, Zila Panchayat, Nagar Nigam Jagdalpur, the Education department, All India Radio – Jagdalpur to sensitize the community. The event started with a drawing competition and was followed by a drama performed in local language ‘Halbi’, which caught everyone’s eye.

In a month long campaign, ISA & IEC team under PHED-CG had organized 33 Jal Sabhas/ Gram Sabhas/ PRAs, 16 processions, across the district during the campaign. The ISAs were actively promoting the kitchen garden, greywater management, it was overwhelming to see the kitchen garden being practiced by the villagers for an instance; Vishrampuri, Sorgaon, Farsaguda, and Bhanpuri. Most of the HHs having banana plants, Bhaji, and vegetable crops near the bathing area and utensil cleaning area.

Quoting Shri. Rajat Bansal, Collector of Bastar and the chairperson of DWSM

“Keeping Bastar’s geography, far-reaching areas and distant villages in view, Jal Jeevan Mission has helped to provide FHTC in such areas, as well as the IEC campaigns such as ‘Mor Gaon Mor Paani’. Such awareness campaign is very crucial for the sensitization of the community on water quality and prudent use of water, also building the ownership of the PWSS”

Members of Pani Samiti are sensitizing local village community during the month long IEC campaign
Review of Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan

Union Minister, Jal Shakti chaired a review meeting on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) on 28th April, 2022 in Jaipur with 16 Members of Parliament (MPs) of Rajasthan and PHED officials to expedite the implementation of the mission in the State. During the review, he emphasized that the success of JJM lies within the community, and thus, the MPs play a key role in mobilizing communities and they must take efforts in ensuring that GPs/ VWSCs are involved from the planning stage such that they may be equipped to function as local public water utilities in the future. They must also ensure the quality of works such that the functionality of tap water connections being provided is certain.

The MPs shared their views and concerns about the progress of works in their respective constituencies, quality of works that need immediate attention, quality and regularity of water supply that is to be improved, focus on involvement of local community especially GP/ VWSC starting from planning and implementation up to monitoring to ensure long-term sustainability.

The Minister, PHED Rajasthan highlighted the geographical challenges of the State requiring transportation from long distances but nevertheless acknowledged that the State needs to improve the pace of implementation of the mission. He suggested the Chief Engineers to take input from respective MPs regarding their constituencies to resolve challenges and speed up the process of implementation. ACS, PHED, Rajasthan assured that the State team will work with renewed energy and enthusiasm keeping in view all the valuable suggestions to ensure every rural household in the State is provided tap water supply.

DDWS and FICCI partnership for the ‘Model Block initiative’

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India jointly with India Sanitation Coalition and FICCI organized a meeting of the 100 Districts ‘Model block’ (lighthouse) initiative on 6th April, 2022.

Ms. Vini Mahajan, Secretary DDWS participated in the meeting and said that the government is making all efforts to get a functional household tap connection into every rural household. “Our mission is there by 2024 and by then we should have given a functional tap connection to every household. Starting from the base of about 17% in 2019, we have reached 40% as of now” she said. She further said, “We have to make sure that greywater is effectively managed, and we need to ensure that there is a reduction in vector and waterborne diseases…If we have to take care of India, then we have to take care of our countryside and our rural population.”
Ms. Mahajan further emphasized on the pivotal role of a strong sense of community in the rural areas that may be leveraged for a much larger possibility of community participation. She urged industries to engage and leverage the rural community groupings in the planning stage of the projects. She suggested that with the ‘waste to wealth’ concept, the conversion of organic waste into bio-manure on one hand and extraction of compost gas for energy purposes on the other is possible and may be explored.

Shri Arun Baroka, Special Secretary emphasized on the engagement of people, particularly youth with technical and managerial skills. He also stressed on the need to focus on ODF plus villages and creation of lighthouse projects in the 100 blocks of 100 districts.

Ms Naina Lal Kidwai, Chair, India Sanitation Coalition and Past President, FICCI said, “The focus is on promoting scalable and commercially viable solutions to make the sanitation economy work. Statistics showed that Swachh Bharat missions work has saved millions of lives and the lasting impact. We have to look at the solid and liquid waste management aspect which is very much part of SBM.” Mr Nicolas Osbert Chief, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) at UNICEF India set the context for global hand hygiene being an effective measure to control multiple disease incidences including that of diarrhoea. He also spoke about the genesis and rational of THE hand hygiene hackathon 2022 organised at the behest of India Sanitation and UNICEF.

Capacity Building workshop

One and a half day-long national workshop on Capacity Building was held on 11th and 12th May, 2022 to deliberate on the importance of training for long-term sustainability of ‘Har Ghar Jal’ programme.

Over 100 participants from across States/ UTs including State Nodal Officers, representatives of Key Resource Centres, IEC/ HRD-in charge and team of Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) participated in the workshop.
the capacity of various stakeholders. Our success will be measured through long-term, regular and clean tap water supply in every rural household. We need to commit ourselves to improve the lives of people living in villages.”

Special Secretary, DDWS, Shri Arun Baroka emphasized on need to accelerate the pace of the programme implementation. He added, “Many issues under JJM are inter-related with SBM-G particularly greywater which comes under the purview of DDWS. As water will be available in every household, management of wastewater has to be tackled holistically. We need to ensure that water flowing out of homes does not contaminate base water instead it helps to recharge groundwater table.”

Nicolas Osbert, Chief, WASH, UNICEF India spoke on how JJM is directly impacting the lives of women and children. He said, “The world is looking at India on how the political will and commitment by the government is leading to historical change. Big budget has been set aside to ensure availability of potable water in every rural home.”

Experts from water sector like Shri R. K. Sama, former Project Director WASMO Gujarat, Shri Liby Johnson from Gram Vikas were present to share their thoughts.

**Home Minister inaugurates water projects of Arunachal Pradesh**

Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah visited the Aspirational district of Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday, 22nd of May. Along with other development projects, he also digitally inaugurated several water projects for the frontier state. 258 Schemes, worth nearly 238.5 Crore were launched that are expected to serve more than 11,000 households in the State defying all odds in far-flung areas with difficult terrain.

**Union Minister, Jal Shakti & Chief Minister of UP jointly review progress of JJM**

Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath jointly reviewed the progress made under Jal Jeevan Mission in the State on 12th May, 2022 in Lucknow. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary, DDWS, Special Sec. DDWS, State PHED Minister, Secretary-UP and other officials from State department and NJJM.

While delivering the keynote address, Shri Adityanath said- “the situation in the Bundelkhand-Vindhya region of the State is now changing with the launch of the ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ on August 15, 2019. The dream of supplying pure drinking water to each household is being fulfilled.”

Further he said that so far over 30.87 lakh tap water connections have been provided since the launch of mission and the target to have clean drinking water in every household of every revenue village will be achieved by March 2024. He laid emphasis on transparency and suggested the use of a robust monitoring mechanism including regular site-inspection for the on-going schemes and also in declaration of ‘Har Ghar Jal’.
Secretary, DDWS reviews progress of JJM in Madhya Pradesh

Ms. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, DDWS along with Shri Arun Baroka, Special Secretary, DDWS reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission in Madhya Pradesh, on 23 April, 2022. The meeting was attended by Shri Malay Srivastava, ACS, PHED, Shri Umakant Umrao, Principal Secretary, PR&RD, etc. and Director, NJJM. Post the review meeting, Secretary, DDWS visited the villages of Indore district, where Jal Jeevan Mission is under implementation. During her visit, she interacted with members of VWSC/ Pani Samiti. A live demo of water quality testing using FTK was also organised wherein members of the Pani Samiti conducted water quality testing on different parameters. ACS, PHED and the Collector, Indore and other senior officers from State and NJJM accompanied her during the visit.

MoS for Jal Shakti visits Sikkim

MoS visited Sikkim on 6th May, 2022 to see the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission and how State government is planning to execute the remaining task in hand. During his visit, he visited the water sources, interacted with local village community, received the on-spot feedback about the drinking water provided under the mission and deliver his view and way forward to effective implementation of the flagship programme of providing tap water connection by 2024 to every rural household.

Progress of JJM in Tamil Nadu

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Jal Shakti reviewed the progress made under JJM in the State of Tamil Nadu on 20th May, 2022 at Chennai in the presence of State officials. He urged the State to work with more vigour and expedite the work and achieve the goal in a time-bound manner without compromising quality of works, as it is non-negotiable, and the State must endeavour to ensure this aspect is not diluted in the process. He assured that since the challenge is huge, to increase the speed, GoI will extend full support to the State and there will be no dearth of funds.

Secretary, DDWS chaired the review meeting in Madhya Pradesh

MoS, Jal Shakti in Sikkim
Roundtable Discussion of Secretary, DDWS

A roundtable discussion on the 'Future of Water' was presided over by Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, DDWS on 10th May, 2022.

The roundtable discussion was organised by U.S.-India Business Council to share experiences, best practices, latest technologies, and suggestions in water, wastewater management, etc. During the meeting USIBC members presented the overview of works being done in the water sector and committed to work more extensively towards increasing reach of rural water supply, empower communities, and eliminate water borne diseases by supporting Government of India.

Secretary, DDWS while interacting with participants

Quiz completion organized in Schools of UT of Ladakh

Quiz & Debate competition was organised across all schools of Leh district to raise awareness & convey the message of water conservation, cleaning of water sources, greywater management, management of drinking water in winters and empowerment through Jal Jeevan Mission.

Distribution of awards to the winner

National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality (NCDWSQ), Kolkata, an autonomous institution of Government of India, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti invites online applications from eligible candidates for "Empanelment and Deployment as Sector Experts" professional having experience in water supply and sanitation sector for ground truthing and providing technical assistance in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission at ground level.

To apply and know more, scan the QR code:

Empanelment of sector partners for JJM

Jal Jeevan Mission - 'Har Ghar Jal' is being implemented in partnership with States/UTs to provide potable water through Functional Household Tap connections (FHTCs) with the focus on quantity, quality and affordability of water supply on regular and long term basis.

Translation of text in Urdu:

Building a sense of ownership and commitment: Andhra Pradesh

Jan Bhagidari - community ownership is the keystone of Jal Jeevan Mission, and an inclusive representation in the Pani Samiti is a way to ensure equal participation in the development and long-term sustenance of in-village water infrastructure. To inculcate this sense of ownership and responsibility in the local community regarding water supply, the Pani Samiti members of Koa Mangapuram village in NTR District of Andhra Pradesh, took a pledge involving children and community members, by leaving their colourful hand impressions on paper and alongside mentioning their names, to maintain the scheme in the long run. This took place at the training session on Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS). The team members and community people were made aware of the importance of water and the role of the community in protecting water resources.

Members of Pani Samiti showing their commitment

Many such activities that promote behavioural change are being designed and implemented by Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation (VCF) supported by Tata Trusts, that works as ISA for 107 villages in Andhra Pradesh to engage the community in issues like water management, water quality, awareness regarding water-related diseases, water harvesting, source sustainability, ownership of assets, etc.
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Secretary, DDWS while interacting with participants said that Jal Jeevan Mission - ‘Har Ghar Jal’ is being implemented in partnership with States/UTs to provide potable water through Functional Household Tap connections (FHTCs) with the focus on quantity, quality, and affordability of water supply on regular and long-term basis.

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To apply and know more, scan the QR code:
A team of 7 members from National Jal Jeevan Mission including 2 State UNICEF Consultants visited 27 villages in three districts of Jharkhand during 19th-22nd April, 2022 to oversee the progress of implementation of JJM works on ground, understand key issues and challenges, suggest measures to speed up the work and document good practices.

During the visit the team interacted with the SWSM/DWSM officials, members of Gram Panchayat/ VWSC and the local community. It was a noteworthy observation that at many places tap water connections are provided with proper support/ platform. The NJJM team advised the State to ensure that recommendations of the Source Finding Committee are part of all project reports and to focus on groundwater recharge structures for source sustainability, especially since most of the schemes in the State are borewell based. The team also suggested that hydrogeological studies may be carried out for source sustainability. Need for an overarching focus on long-term financial sustainability through collection of user charges and community contribution was communicated. The team advised the State to ensure overall quality of material and construction, and to train O&M staff at the local level. Emphasis was also given on greywater management and rainwater harvesting. The State was also requested to make sensitisation of the community a priority.

A team comprising of 5 members from NJJM and WAPCOS visited 13 villages in 2 districts (East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi) of Meghalaya during 9th-12th May 2022, to review DPRs, validate them on the ground and to provide handholding support.

The team advised the State to carry out GIS mapping of sources and include the recommendations of the Source Finding Committee in the DPRs. It was highlighted that proper utilisation of already existing infrastructure before building new ones need to be ensured to optimise cost. Design of distribution system must be based on actual site surveys. It was emphasized that TPIA is a must to ensure quality of works and must be mobilised. The team also suggested that capacity building and IEC activities at the community level must be taken up to fulfil the true spirit of the program.

A team comprising of 9 members from NJJM visited more than 35 villages in 5 districts (Balod, Raigarh, Hashpur, Kawardha and Bemetera) of Chhattisgarh during 24th-27th May, to understand the saturation planning of the State and appreciate the issues & challenges being faced by the State. The visiting team also inspected the implementation of JJM on grassroots level and sensitized local officials for speedy implementation. The team interacted with DWSM/ SWSM officials, members of Gram Panchayat, VWSCs and local communities. The team extended technical assistance to expedite the implementation. The team suggested that the State must focus on SVS schemes wherever quantity and quality of groundwater is agreeable and sustainable. They also advised to complete the DPRs and tendering process at the earliest for all the schemes. Further, the State was requested to train ISAs on priority basis so that the community can be more effectively sensitized. The visiting team also emphasised greywater management, handing over of schemes to the VWSCs and skilling for O&M. IMIS data reconciliation based on actual field condition was advised to be taken up on priority. The quality of tap connections provided is good with proper platform/pedestal, which was appreciated.

A multidisciplinary team of 8 members from NJJM and WAPCOS visited 6 districts of Mizoram during 19th-22nd April, 2022 to understand ground situation of JJM implementation and extend technical assistance to expedite the works. The team reviewed the DPRs and advised the state that they should be prepared based on actual site survey data to optimise the design and recommendations of the Source Finding Committee must be part of the DPRs.
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The team visited the respecve schemes and suggested that a standard tap design along with adequate pedestal support be used across the State, and wherever needed, retrofitting be done. With reference to the design population, the visiting team suggested the State PHED to re-estimate it, seeking past trend and use of all approved methods. The need for improvement of technical details like design of reservoir capacity, trench depth, chlorina- tion system and choice of pipe material etc. was high-lighted. It was also emphasized that State must ensure cost optimisation by adhering to the JJM guidelines. Support activities including IEC, FTK training, skilling at local level, HGJ cerficaon must be prioritised.

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Awareness generation program on JJM to MGNREGS workers at Gunkalam Village, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh

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