

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation
Estt. Section

Function and Duties

The Department of Drinking Water Supply (DDWS) was created in the Ministry of Rural Development in 1999, which was subsequently renamed as the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation in 2010. Keeping in view the significance of Rural water supply and Sanitation, the Government of India created and Notified the Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation as a separate Ministry on 13th July, 2011. The Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation was the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning, funding and coordination of the flagship programmes of the Government viz. the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for rural drinking water and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) {SBM(G)} for sanitation, in the country. Later in the year 2019, the Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation was changed into Department of Drinking water and Sanitation and was brought under Ministry of Jal Shakti. It has two ongoing flagship programmes:

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rain water harvesting.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen - To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister of India had launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October 2014. Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves "open-defecation free" (ODF) by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India. To ensure that the open defecation free behaviours are sustained, no one is left behind, and that solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible, the Mission is moving towards the next Phase II of SBMG i.e ODF-Plus. ODF Plus activities under Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages.
