

**YEAR END REVIEW
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION**

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMEEN) -PHASE II

Over 83% Villages in India Declared as ODF Plus (Model) under SBM (G) with over 5.27 lakh villages with arrangements for Solid Waste Management and 5.41 lakh villages with arrangements for Liquid Waste Management

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign from 17th- 2nd October 2025 witnessed mass participation and Jan Bhagidari from over 18 crore people with over 13 crore individuals from rural India

Inspired by Hon'ble Prime Minister's nationwide call, Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti led Shramdaan at Kalindi Kunj under Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 under 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath'

Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti engaged in a dialogue with over 150 Sarpanches ahead on 79th Independence Day, 2025

DDWS's, Hamara Shauchalay, Hamara Bhavishya led to repair and beautification of more than 1 lakh Individual Households Toilets (IHHLs) and over 550 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs). The campaign reported over 49,000 IEC/BCC events which saw the participation of over 32 lakh individuals

About Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen

Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen {SBM(G)} is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on October 2, 2014. Its aim was to make India Open Defecation Free (ODF) by October 2, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The focus for SBM(G) Phase I was to provide access to toilets for all rural households in the country.

As a result, by October 2019, all villages across the country had declared themselves ODF with this rural sanitation coverage increased from 39% in 2014 to 100% in 2019.

SBM(G) Phase II was launched in 2020 after India was declared ODF with the objective of achieving Sampurna Swachhata and to ensure no one is left behind in their pursuit of having Individual Household Toilets and have access to proper waste management systems and making ODF Plus (Model) villages.

SBM(G) Phase II Objectives

The key objective of SBM(G) Phase II is to ensure that all villages sustain their ODF status and progress towards becoming ODF Plus (Model) Villages. This includes the following components:

- ODF Sustainability
- Solid Waste Management
- Liquid Waste Management
- Visual Cleanliness

Key Highlights of 2025

The total programme outlay of SBM(G) Phase- II is over Rs.1.40 lakh crore.

As per the SBM(G) IMIS portal on December 16, 2025

- More than 12 crore Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) and 2.67 lakh Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) have been constructed since October 2, 2014.
- Over 4.89 lakh villages are declared as ODF Plus (Model) and over 4.15 lakh are verified ODF Plus (Model) villages

- More than 5.27 lakh villages have arrangements for Solid Waste Management
 - More than 5,300 Blocks have arrangements for Plastic Waste Management
- Over 5.41 lakh villages have arrangements for Liquid Waste Management
- Under GOBARdhan, more than 970 community Biogas Plants are functional
- 21,306 trainings have been conducted covering 1,15,274 GPs. 32,298 Trainers (3,442 Master trainer and 28,856 field trainer) trained.

SBM(G) dashboard is a dynamic platform designed to advance villages towards becoming ODF Plus (Model) with integrated management information system. Developed in collaboration with NIC, updated by States/UTs it empowers data-driven decision-making for a cleaner, healthier India. Visit the SBM(G) dashboard by clicking on



Figure a: SBM(G) dashboard

<https://sbm.gov.in/sbmgdashboard/statedashboard.aspx> to

ODF Plus (Model) Declared Villages as of 16 th December, 2025	
Model	Verified
4,89,526	4,15,915

Expenditure For Implementation of SBM (G) - Rs in Crore	
Year	Fund Utilized Central Share
2014-2015 to 2024-2025	93723.40
2025-26	2204.03 (As on 16 th Dec 2025)

India's WASH Innovations showcases at the World Economic Forum 2025 in January

India's rural WASH story was presented at the India Pavilion at World Economic Forum 2025 in January in Davos through a discussion titled "India's WASH Innovation: Driving Global Impact in Climate and Water Sustainability." The session highlighted India's transformative achievements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), emphasizing its critical role in global climate resilience and sustainable development.

Shri C. R. Patil, Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, delivered the keynote address, presenting India's journey in implementing the SBM(G) and JJM. The World Economic Forum provided a platform for the Ministry to showcase India's groundbreaking initiatives in WASH

innovation and climate resilience, emphasizing efforts to promote equitable and inclusive access to WASH services.



Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil at the India Pavilion, World Economic Forum 2025, Davos.

Figure 1



Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil with panelists Mrs Archana Vyas from the Gates Foundation, Mr Ankit Anand of Riseberg Ventures, Mr Stephen Kasper from BCHAR, Mr Jaleed Khwaja of Capgemini, and Mr Vivek Oberoi, at the India Pavilion, World Economic Forum 2025, Davos.

The keynote address was followed by two insightful panel discussions. The Water Panel, on the topic “Bringing Global Impact in Water Sustainability,” and the Sanitation Panel, centered on the topic “Innovation in Global Health Through Sanitation”.

The panel discussion at the India Pavilion spotlighted India's WASH innovations and its significance in addressing global sustainability challenges and promoted dialogue on public-private partnerships, technology-driven solutions, and strategies for scaling successful models globally. To read more about this event click on- [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025: (17th September- 2nd October 2025)

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) is a pivotal campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2017. This annual campaign aims to mobilize citizens of India towards enhanced cleanliness and sanitation. SHS emphasizes the importance of active citizen involvement in creating a cleaner and healthier nation.

The objective of SHS 2025 was to facilitate large-scale advocacy and citizen participation for swachhata, mega cleanliness drives & clearing of dirty and difficult garbage spots (Cleanliness Target Units), prioritize the health and welfare of sanitation workers, and celebrate community festivals in an eco-friendly manner.

SHS 2025 was held from 17th September – 2nd October 2025. The SHS 2025 theme was 'Swachhotsav' / स्वच्छोत्सव – focusing on clean and green festivities and zero-waste community celebrations.

The five key pillars of SHS 2025 were:

- Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs)
- Clean Public Spaces
- Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivir
- Clean Green Festivities
- Advocacy for Swachhata

SHS 2025 celebrations were initiated through a video conference chaired by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti on 9th September 2025. During the video conference, Hon'ble Union Minister of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Manohar Lal and Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil interacted with Ministers and senior officials from States/UTs. The discussion focused on readiness for the upcoming SHS campaign, especially the identification of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), mobilization of communities, and active involvement of implementing Departments and Institutions, youth and the civil society.

Following the Ministers video conference, a curtain raiser and media interaction event was organized on 15th September in New Delhi. The event outlined SHS 2025 priorities and the five pillars of the program. The meeting was chaired by the Union Minister Hon'ble Union Minister of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti. The curtain raiser and media interaction event press release can be accessed through this link- [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)



Figure 2: Curtain raiser and media interaction event on 15th September at New Delhi

On 17th September, Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil officially kick-started SHS 2025 through a shramdaan drive and engaging with sanitation workers and citizens at Ichhanath Temple in Surat, Gujarat. Click on [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#) to learn more.

In Karnataka, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna marked the SHS 2025 launch through a series of activities, including a Railway cleanliness drive, felicitation of railway sanitation workers for their dedicated service, shramdaan, and a plantation drive.



Figure 3: Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil engaged with dedicated sanitation workers whose unwavering efforts have helped establish Surat as a benchmark for cleanliness & Hon'ble Minister of State for the Ministry of Jal Shakti Sh V. Somanna leading cleanliness activities in Karnataka

Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath - 25th September 2025, 8:00 AM

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi sounded a call to the nation to participate in the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025S through the nationwide *Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath*” shramdaan.



Figure 4: Hon'ble Prime Minister call to the nation to participate SHS 2025 through the nationwide *Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath*” Shramdaan

DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil and the Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri V Somanna, organized a large-scale Shramdaan activity at Kalindi Kunj, Yamuna Ghat from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, as part of the nationwide campaign “*Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath*” under Swachhata Hi Seva 2025.



Figure 5:Swachhata Pledge in progress at the Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath event at Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi

The shramdaan saw active participation of officials of DDWS led by Secretary DDWS, youth volunteers, Rural Wash Partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), students etc. Approximately 2500 kilos of waste were collected during the shramdaan. To know more about the shramdaan event click on [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

Swachh Bharat Diwas (2nd October)

DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, observed Swachh Bharat Diwas with a collective shramdaan for cleanliness by all senior officials of the department at the CGO Complex, New Delhi on 2nd October 2025 – a day that commemorates the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Shramdaan at CGO complex was preceded by a review meeting chaired by Secretary, DDWS with all senior officers of the department wherein the progress made under the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign was discussed. To learn about the event click here [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) – JMP Report

Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report (2000-2024), a global tracker monitoring progress on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene published by WHO/UNICEF, highlighted India as an example in monitoring safe emptying and treatment of faecal sludge through the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) database, which links households to sewage and or faecal sludge treatment plants.

The report has highlighted that over the past two decades, 676 million people in India have moved away from open defecation -- a transformation driven by the launch of SBM in 2014. Building on this progress, India continues to focus on safe management of faecal sludge and wastewater, developing systems that connect households, communities, and treatment facilities, with the next phase aimed at scale and sustainability. Detailed report may be accessed at this link-[JMP - Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2024 - UNICEF DATA](#)

Whole-of Government Campaigns

DDWS in the year participated in various Special Campaigns led by other Ministries and Departments.

- **MoWCD's International Women's Day (March 8):** DDWS aligned with the MoWCD's directive requested all State/UTs for their participation in the campaign through proposed activities. During this campaign, over 6 lakh participants engaged in SBM-(G) activities nationwide, including WASH Runs, Mahila Sabhas, and felicitation ceremonies. Over 5,500 women-led Gram Panchayats and over 6,800 sanitation workers contributed to the initiatives. DDWS Report of International Women's Day can be accessed on swachhbharatmission.ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/communication-material/IWD_Report_2025.pdf
- **MoWCD Poshan Pakhwada:** DDWS participated in the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from 8th to 23rd April 2025. The campaign aligned with the MoWCD's Saksham Anganwadi scheme and focused specifically on clean water practices and sanitation as crucial elements for a child's nutrition and overall health. DDWS press release for MoWCD's Poshan Pakhwada can be accessed on [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)
- **MoPR'S National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24):** DDWS participated in the Panchayati Raj Day 2025 celebration that stood out as a powerful demonstration of grassroots democracy in action. Over 15 lakh participants actively engaged in SBM(G) and JJM activities, reflecting the community's deep commitment to building a Swachh and Swasth Bharat. DDWS Report of MoPR's National Panchayati Raj Day can be accessed on [Final Report of National Panchayati Raj Day](#)
- **MoHFW'S Menstrual Hygiene Management Day (May 28):** DDWS issued a DO to all States/UTs to utilize Menstrual Hygiene Management day to draw upon the SBM(G) experience in mainstreaming menstrual hygiene as part of the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) framework, and emphasize participatory, community-driven action. DDWS Report of MoHFW's Menstrual Hygiene Management Day is available on [MHM 2025 Report_DDWS](#)
- **MoEFCC'S World Environment Day (June 5):** DDWS collaborated with MoEFCC and played a vital role by coordinating with States/UTs to identify garbage vulnerable points

(GVPs) near rural water bodies, organizing cleanliness drives and facilitating the installation of trash traps and fencing around waste-processing facilities. DDWS Report of MoEFCC's World Environment Day is available on [Final DDWS- WED report](#)

- **Ministry of Ayush's- International Yoga Day (June 21):** DDWA collaborated with MoA for the 11th International Day of Yoga and issued appropriate guidelines to States/UTs to participate in this campaign. DDWS's report of MoA's International Yoga Day is available on [Yoga Day-DDWS report.pdf](#)

In addition, DDWS also participated in the International Day of Yoga 2025 celebration event that was organised on the banks of the river Yamuna at the BSF Kayaking Camp, Zero Pushta Park, New Delhi. To learn about the event please access the press at - [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

- **MoHFW's Stop Diarrhoea Campaign (June 20- July 31):** DDWS supported MoHFW across program components. The focus of the campaign was to promote safe water and sanitation practices at the village and panchayat level through key proposed activities. DDWS Report of Stop Diarrhoea campaign can be accessed on [swachhbharatmission.ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/communication-material/Stop_Diarrhoea_Campaign_Combined_Final_report_compressed.pdf](#)
- **MoC's Har Ghar Tiranga Har Ghar Swachhata (August 8-15):** DDWS in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, organized the Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata campaign from 8–15 August 2025. The initiative combined national pride with sanitation, mobilizing 2.6 crore citizens across 30 States/UTs, 581 districts, and 3.21 lakh villages. Communities actively participated in activities such as drain cleaning, greywater management, water leakage fixing, and plastic waste collection drives, with over 2.15 lakh villages conducting plastic management drives and over 91,000 citizens joining these drives. DDWS report of MoC's Har Ghar Tiranga Har Ghar Swachhata campaign can be accessed on [swachhbharatmission.ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/communication-material/HGT_compressed.pdf](#)
- **DoPT's Special Campaign 5.0:** DDWS successfully participated in DoPT's Special Campaign 5.0 held from October 2nd to October 31st, 2025. The nationwide drive focusses on improving efficiency, cleanliness and governance by weeding out old files, resolving

public grievances/references, managing scrap and promoting sustainable practices across government offices. Under this campaign at DDWS, 120 square feet of office space was cleared, and 100 physical files were successfully weeded out, streamlining records and reducing physical clutter. In addition, the systematic disposal of unserviceable assets and scrap including e-waste, during the campaign generated a revenue of Rs 3,73,706, achieving full target completion and beyond, in these parameters. The Department disposed of 410 Public Grievances (PG) and 50 PG Appeals. Additionally, the Department ensured prompt action on high-priority communications by clearing 16 VIP references, 3 PMO references, and 2 State Government references. For additional information, click here [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

DDWS-UNICEF launched ‘Ripples of Change’ Showcasing Gender-Transformative WASH Stories

Hon’ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil launched the DDWS- UNICEF joint publication ‘Ripples of Change’ on 26th March 2025. The book highlights 10 stories on rural WASH showcasing Community Leadership, Women’s Empowerment and Local Innovation.

This event also witnessed unveiling of the revamped Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation) website aligned with DBIM and GIGW 3.0 guidelines.

SBM(G) Program Reviews

Minister Review in January



Figure 6

Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti held SBM(G) review meetings with Karnataka and Haryana in January 2025.

DDWS-UNICEF Host a National Rural Sanitation Workshop in July

A high level National Rural Sanitation Workshop was held in July that was attended by key stakeholders including senior government officials, state mission directors, development partners and sector experts to review the progress of the SBM(G) and identify priorities for its next phase. To read more about the event click on [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

This event also witnessed the launch of two important technical publications that represented an important step towards ensuring that sanitation services are not only safe and inclusive but also climate-resilient and equitable:



Figure 7: Book Launch at the DDWS- UNICEF National Rural Sanitation Workshop

- Standard Operating Procedures for the Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Workers in Rural India
- Protocol for Developing Climate Resilient Sanitation Technical Designs and Services

Roundtable Conference of SBM(G): Progress & Brainstorming on SBM(G) Next Phase

DDWS convened a “Roundtable Conference on Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Progress & Brainstorming on SBM(G) Next Phase” in September 2025.



Figure 8: Glimpse from the Roundtable Conference on SBM-G Progress & Brainstorming on SBM-G Next Phase in September 2025.

The deliberations were chaired by the Hon’ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil; Hon’ble Minister of State, Shri V Somanna; Secretary DDWS, Shri Ashok K.K. Meena and AS&MD NJJM & SBM(G), Shri Kamal Kishore Soan.

The full-day programme also brought together senior leadership from across the country including State Ministers, Special Chief Secretary/ Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Chief Secretaries /Chief Secretaries/ Secretaries and Mission Directors from 28 States/UTs to review progress, identify challenges, and chart the next phase of rural sanitation. These reviews reaffirm the government’s commitment to advancing rural sanitation and empowering communities toward a Swachh and Swasth Bharat. To read the press release of this conference click here [Press Release:Press Information Bureau](#)

Sujalam Bharat Summit

The Sujalam Bharat Summit, conceptualized under the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the Fourth Conference of Chief Secretaries, reflects India's commitment to a water-secure and climate-resilient future. Anchored by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and coordinated by NITI Aayog, the summit serves as a platform to capture grassroots feedback and strengthen national water policies.

Greywater management and reuse emerged as one of the themes recognizing that nearly 65% of household wastewater in rural areas is greywater, making its safe disposal and productive reuse critical for public health, environmental sustainability, and groundwater recharge. The workshop held on 22nd September 2025



Figure 9: DDWS's Virtual Workshop on Greywater Management and Reuse under Sujalam Bharat Summit

brought together over 500 stakeholders from States/UTs, technical agencies, and civil society to deliberate on challenges such as policy gaps, technical capacity, and financing, while promoting the 3R approach—Reduce, Reuse, Recharge—under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II.



Figure 10: Sujalam Bharat Summit held on 28-29 November in Delhi

The summit concluded on 28–29 November 2025 with presentations from five States showcasing innovative models and best practices around greywater management & reuse, including decentralized, nature-based solutions and community-led approaches.

Discussions emphasized the need for comprehensive state-level policies, convergence of schemes, and robust O&M frameworks to ensure sustainability. Recommendations focused on empowering local institutions, building technical capacity, and fostering behavioral change through IEC campaigns.

By positioning greywater as a valuable resource rather than waste, the Vision for Sujalam Bharat aims to mainstream reuse into rural sanitation strategies, linking it with

agriculture, livelihoods, and climate resilience. These collective efforts will accelerate progress toward achieving universal greywater management coverage and advancing India's goal of Viksit Bharat.

GOBARDhan

Union Minister interacts with Gujarat Milk Cooperatives



Figure 11: Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil, meeting with Chairpersons and MDs of milk cooperatives and dairies from Gujarat.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti convened a crucial meeting with Chairpersons and MDs of milk cooperatives and dairies from Gujarat on 6th January 2025. The meeting aimed at accelerating the establishment of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants that will transform cattle dung and other organic waste into sustainable energy and organic manure, in line with the government's vision to convert waste to wealth. During the meeting, Union Minister, Shri C R Patil emphasized the critical role of the dairy sector in advancing energy efficiency and sustainability. He highlighted that by converting organic waste from dairy operations into CBG, Gujarat could benefit both environmentally and economically, with the initiative offering a significant reduction in carbon emissions while fostering self-sustaining energy models in rural areas.

The Minister underscored the economic and environmental advantages of such initiatives which allows for not only reducing our carbon footprint but also creating new revenue streams for farmers and cooperative including availing carbon credits.

- As on date, 1,246 biogas plants have been registered of which more than 970 community/cluster level Biogas Plants are functional.

Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) is an umbrella scheme of utmost importance provided by the Government of India in the spirit of the whole-of-Government approach to the conversion of waste into wealth by supporting a circular economy. Since June 2025, MoPNG is the Nodal Ministry coordinating for the GOBARdhan initiative.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee - National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS)

DDWS's SPM NIWAS, Kolkata is committed towards becoming a prominent Center of Excellence under SBM(G) and JJM. The focus of work has been on positioning SPM NIWAS as a leading knowledge hub for students, professionals, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practitioners and drive scalable, impactful solutions for sanitation and water management.

During the year, approximately 71 trainings (46 online & 25 In-person) have been conducted on SBM(G) verticals that have received participation of 1,714 participants from the National, State and District teams.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen

DDWS launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025, a nationwide rural sanitation survey in the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti and Minister of State for Jal Shakti in May. SSG 2025 aims to rigorously assess the on-ground status of rural sanitation, with a sharp focus on sustaining the ODF Plus (Model) village outcomes achieved under SBM(G).

Minister Interaction with Women Sarpanches on the eve of Independence Day



Figure 12: Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna at the event hosted on the eve of Independence Day

DDWS hosted an event for the 79th Independence Day as a special interaction of Sarpanches with the Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna. On 14th August 2025 over 150 Sarpanches were selected for this interaction with the Minister, based on their exceptional contribution on ground in making Swachh Sujal Gaon a reality.

This event was graced by Secretary Department of Water Resources and River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Secretary Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and other senior officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti. The press release of the event is available on [Press Release: Press Information Bureau](#).

DDWS at the UNC Water and Health Conference 2025

Secretary, DDWS, Sh. Ashok K. K. Meena delivered a presentation on India's Rural Water Programming at the UNC Water and Health Conference 2025 in November in North Carolina, USA. His address began with a short film showcasing India's Rural WASH journey under both missions including SBM(G) & JJM. The Rural WASH story video is available on this link- https://youtu.be/U6PYKuehwM8?si=tL_6vQIX9stbXL0W

He also joined a global panel discussion on “The Role of the State” in leading WASH. He shared how strong national leadership has driven India’s rural WASH transformation.



Figure 13: Secretary, DDWS at the UNC Water and Health Conference 2025 in North Carolina, USA

Swachhata Samachar

The monthly SBM(G) newsletter "Swachhata Samachar" was launched in August 2022. In 2025, newsletters were published, and these publications are a comprehensive repository, offering insights into the various initiatives, projects, and achievements at both state and national levels. The newsletter can be accessed on [Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation](#)

DDWS Podcast Series: Voices from the Field

Building on its commitment to innovative communication and knowledge-sharing, DDWS has launched its own dedicated podcast series this year to deepen public engagement on key rural sanitation and sustainability themes. So far, three podcast episodes have been released. One episode, developed in collaboration with UNICEF, focuses on Solid Waste Management, highlighting best practices, community-led solutions, and implementation experiences from across the country. In addition, two in-house episodes produced by DDWS are on “GOBARdhan”, which explores the conversion of organic waste into wealth and energy, and “Swachh Sarvekshan Grameen (SSG)–2025”, which outlines the vision, framework, and assessment approach for strengthening rural sanitation outcomes.



Figure 14: DDWS Podcast series

All podcast episodes are hosted on the official YouTube channels of UNICEF and DDWS. Through this podcast series, DDWS aims to foster informed dialogue, share practical learning, and amplify voices from the ground to support SBM(G).

In addition, DDWS also participated in panel discussions and talk shows on DD Kisan and Sansad TV.

DD Kisan

- JS&MD, SBM(G) participated in DD Kisan Talk for the program - Sarkar Aapke Saath. Watch the show at <https://youtu.be/xJk90UffhQs?si=xYjmU11nGqXQLAvo>

Sansad TV

- Economic Advisor , DDWS participated in a panel discussion on National Panchayati Raj Day, available on https://youtu.be/yJC7cYczd8?si=UlhFYqx_Lr7P0Fro
- Director, SBM(G) participated in a panel discussion for Menstrual Hygiene Day , available at <https://youtu.be/rRjwkr-5vE8?si=D5V9urrc21vF1L6>
- DDG, DDWS participated in a panel discussion for Swachh Sarvekshan Grameen. The



Figure 15: Glimpses of DDWS participation in panel discussions and talk shows on DD Kisan and Sansad TV.

show can be watched at https://youtu.be/CXFJfJ5-WXY?si=b8Sx02otGDv8xw_U

Rural WASH WhatsApp Channel

In March 2025, DDWS launched a rural WASH WhatsApp channel to strengthen public engagement by sharing official meeting details, scheme updates, and key announcements. The channel has already connected approximately 3,000 members. Scan the QR code to join and stay informed.



Figure b: QR Code of Rural WASH WhatsApp Channel

Yojana Special Issue on WASH

DDWS in collaboration with Yojana, the Government of India's flagship monthly publication published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting brought out a special issue dedicated to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in September 2025.

The special issue was developed to showcase multi-sectoral efforts in strengthening WASH outcomes across the country, with contributions from key departments, institutions, and states.

The planning for this special issue containing about 18 articles, along with the content drafts were developed, approved and disseminated.



Figure 16: Yojana Special on WASH

Hamara Shauchalay, Hamara Bhavishya

DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the nationwide campaign, '*Hamara Shauchalay, Hamara Bhavishya*' (हमारा शौचालय, हमारा भविष्य) on November 19th, 2025. This campaign reiterated the importance of toilets and ensuring their proper maintenance to provide safe sanitation to communities today and to prepare for a cleaner and healthier future. It emphasizes on functionality assessment, repair and aesthetic upliftment of rural toilets, for both Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) and Individual Household

Latrines (IHHLs). The campaign aligns with SBM(G) objectives and the campaign was observed from 19th November 2025 till Human Rights Day, 10th December 2025

The key objectives of the campaign included:

- Enhancing functionality and undertaking repairs of CSCs and IHHLs
- Assessing and strengthening existing O&M systems for community toilets
- Promoting and encouraging communities for aesthetic upliftment of their CSCs and IHHLs
- Awareness generation in the community and especially in schools regarding (i) importance of sanitation and hygiene for the individual, the community and the country (ii) safe handling of faecal waste, including retrofitting or moving towards community faecal sludge management arrangements (iii) Climate Resilient Sanitation and Service Delivery Protocol.
- Jan Bhagidari to reinforce collective responsibility for Sampoorna Swachhata



Figure 17: Glimpses from Hamara Shauchalay, Hamara Bhavishya

Under the campaign, as reported by States/UTs

- More than 1 lakh IHHLs and over 5500 CSCs were repaired and beautified.
- Over 49 thousand reported IEC/BCC events saw participation from more than 32.70 lakh individuals, with highest participation from Tamil Nadu (4.86lakh),

followed by Gujarat (4.50 lakh).

- Out of total reported IEC/BCC events:
 - More than 10,800 awareness generation sessions were held on transportation of Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) and retrofitting with 6.43 lakh participants.
 - Over 9,800 sessions conducted in schools were attended by over 6.8 lakh individuals.
 - More than 5,600 Chaupals were conducted.
 - Over 3,800 Wall Paintings/Wall Art were done.

Swachh Sujal Gaon

DDWS has been focusing on ensuring all villages progress towards becoming 'Swachh Sujal Gaon', reflecting the commitment towards strengthening drinking water and sanitation services in rural India. Swachh Sujal Gaon villages are those village that are ODF Plus (Model) verified under SBM(G) and Har Ghar Jal certified under JJM.

Under this, efforts are directed towards guiding States/UTs to publish social media posts from their District and State handles to promote those villages that have achieved the Swachh Sujal Gaon status using the hashtags #SwachhSujalGaon and #स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव.

The hashtag report for the same is: -

#SwachhSujalGaon

- No. of tweets with #SwachhSujalGaon - 3685
- Total Reach - 4,483,190
- Total Impressions - 70,590

#स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव

- No. of tweets with #स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव - 2655
- Total Reach - 2,132,153
- Total Impressions - 31,789

In addition, creatives for Swachh Sujal Gaon have been developed to reinforce its messaging and relevance. A community board/ poster has been designed to create awareness and encourage community action towards achieving clean, healthy, and water-secure villages.

These are shared with States/UTs which are then translated the content into local vernacular languages for better understanding among rural communities and disseminating the core messaging of Swachh Sujal Gaon.

Swachh Sujal Gaon Ki Kahani: Radio Ki Zubani

DDWS has launched a programme on community radio with an aim to connect with rural audiences across India through engaging storytelling and dialogue. Under this, a programme called “Swachh Sujal Gaon Ki Kahani: Radio Ki Zubani” was launched under the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil in November. The programme will be aired through 100 radio stations across the country in collaboration with Community Radio Association (CRA), in 13 national and 34 local dialects. It features two lively characters – Sujal Kumar and Swachhika Kumari, who take listeners on an inspiring WASH journey across rural India, sharing real stories of transformation. To make the programme more interactive, it will include quiz competitions and community segments encouraging participation, awareness, and ownership among listeners.

Programme Funding under SBM (G) Phase-II

Under SBM(G), incentive of Rs.12000/- is provided for construction of individual household latrine (IHHL) to the eligible households the BPL households and identified Above Poverty Line (APL) households (SC/ST, Small and Marginal Farmers, Landless Labourers with Homestead, Physically Handicapped, and Women headed households). States have the flexibility to provide higher incentive amount by providing additional State share. Under the programme, financial assistance is also provided to the Gram Panchayats for construction of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) and creation of assets for SLWM in villages.

The fund sharing ratio between the Centre and the States and Union Territories is as under:

- A funding ratio of 90:10 applies to the eight North-Eastern States, two Himalayan States (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir; a 100% central share is allocated to all Union Territories, while a 60:40 ratio applies to all other States.

SBM(G) Phase-II components:

- Construction of IHHLs for any left out or newly emerged households
- Construction of CSC in villages on need basis

- SLWM - organic waste management, plastic waste management, greywater management and faecal sludge management Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Capacity Building

The ODF Plus progress is being captured through ODF Plus (Model): -

Model: The village which is sustaining its ODF status; has arrangements for both Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; observes visual cleanliness i.e., minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater, and no plastic waste dump in public places. Displays ODF Plus IEC messages

Sanitation is a state subject as the programme is implemented through the State Government. GoI provides technical and financial support to the states to supplement their efforts to improve overall cleanliness in villages, by way of issuing programme guidelines, advisories, and grants-in-aid. The programme is designed as a novel model of convergence between different verticals of financing and various schemes of Government of India and State Governments. Apart from the funds being made available through the budgetary provisions for SBM(G) by the Centre and State Governments, funds are to be dovetailed from the 15th Finance Commission grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs), MGNREGS and revenue generation models, etc., particularly for solid and liquid waste management.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2025: The Year of Structural Reforms

Year 2025 marked Jal Jeevan Mission’s decisive transition from infrastructure creation to institutionalised service delivery – anchored in structural reforms, community ownership, and collaborative governance for sustainable rural water supply.

With a substantial percentage (81.47%) of rural households having achieved Har Ghar Jal status, Jal Jeevan Mission consciously shifted its focus towards ensuring **regularity, adequacy, quality, and sustainability of drinking water services**. This transition required rethinking governance structures, redefining roles across administrative tiers, embedding technology into everyday decision-making, and empowering Panchayats and communities as custodians of rural water systems.

Accordingly, 2025 emerged as the year in which JJM undertook a series of **structural reforms – strengthening digital public infrastructure, institutionalising dialogue and communication, professionalising operation and maintenance, and deepening community ownership**.

These reforms collectively position JJM for the next phase of India’s journey towards water security in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The 4Cs

Jal Jeevan Mission evolved from **Construction** of assets to **Coverage** at scale. As access expanded, the focus shifted to **Collaboration**, strengthening shared custodianship across States, Districts, Panchayats, and Communities. In 2025, the Mission decisively pivoted to **“Communication”**, institutionalising dialogue, transparency, and behavioural change to sustain service delivery.



From Construction to Coverage: Building the Backbone of Rural Water Supply

The journey of **Jal Jeevan Mission** began with an unprecedented national effort to build the physical backbone of rural drinking water supply systems. Launched in 2019 with the objective of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household, the Mission adopted a construction-led, mission-mode approach to address long-standing infrastructure gaps. This phase focused on creating essential assets at scale—sources, treatment facilities, storage structures, and extensive distribution networks—across diverse and often challenging geographies.

Through coordinated planning and sustained investment, the Mission enabled rapid expansion of rural water infrastructure. Large multi-village and single-village Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes were taken up alongside retrofitting of existing systems, allowing States and districts to progressively move towards universal access. As a result, **over 15.7 crore rural households** across the country have been provided with tap water connections, marking one of the largest public service delivery expansions undertaken in independent India.



Har Ghar Jal Status

Certified States/ UTs : Goa, A & N Islands, Puducherry, D&NH and D&D, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab							
Reported States/ UTs : Telangana, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat							
Districts		Blocks		Panchayats		Villages	
Reported 	Certified 	Reported 	Certified 	Reported 	Certified 	Reported 	Certified 
192	117	1,916	1,028 (+1)	1,26,811 (+49)	90,251 (+23)	2,70,012 (+110)	1,78,049 (+72)

Source: JJM-IMIS as on 26th December 2025

Beyond households, the Mission placed special emphasis on ensuring access to safe drinking water in **public institutions that serve children and vulnerable populations**. Tap water supply

was extended to **nearly all government schools and Anganwadi Centres**, strengthening the enabling environment for education, nutrition, hygiene, and health outcomes. This focus ensured that the benefits of infrastructure creation translated into tangible improvements in daily life, particularly for women and children.



JJM progress in Schools and AWCs

Coverage of potable tap water to JE-AES affected districts

The government of India accords priority to Japanese Encephalitis (JE)-Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) affected Districts to ensure potable tap water supply in all the households under Jal Jeevan Mission. In 61 districts affected with JE/AES across 5 states, tap water connection increased from 8 lakh (2.70%) to 2.48 crore (83.34%) households, resulting in improvement in the health profile of the rural population of these areas.

Coverage of potable tap water in Aspirational districts

There are 112 Aspirational Districts of which 15 districts have provided 100% tap water connection to the rural households. Today, out of a total of 2.75 Crore households in Aspirational districts, 2.19 Crore households (79.60%) are getting water through taps which at the time of the launch was only 21.41 lakh (7.77%).

Provision of drinking water supply in public institutions (Schools and Anganwadi Centers)

The continuous relentless effort by the government has resulted in ensuring tap water supply in more than 9.23 lakh (89.62%) schools and 9.66 lakh (85.60%) Anganwadi Centers. 12 and 13 States/ UTs have ensured 100% tap water connectivity in schools and Anganwadi Centers

respectively. The remaining States/ UTs are working towards providing tap connections in schools and Anganwadi centers so that our children get access to safe water which plays a major role in the reduction of infant and maternal mortality.

Status of Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance

Ensuring the provision of safe and adequate drinking water constitutes a core mandate of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). This commitment is fortified by the implementation of a robust Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance system, as outlined in the “**Concise Handbook for Monitoring Water Quality of Piped Drinking Water Supply to Rural Households,**” released by DDWS. The Handbook mandates regular, systematic monitoring at all critical points throughout the entire water supply chain. This comprehensive approach necessitates **testing at the raw water source, the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) (both inlet and outlet), storage structures, and delivery points, specifically including Village, schools, and Anganwadi centres**, thereby ensuring that the water supplied to rural households consistently adheres to prescribed quality standards.

DDWS supports in operation and maintenance of a substantial infrastructure for water quality testing, comprising a total of **2,863 water testing laboratories** established across various levels, including State, Regional, District, Block, Mobile, and WTP facilities nationwide. Significantly, **1,682** of these laboratories are accredited, thereby assuring the high reliability and credibility of testing results. A total of **over 51 lakh water samples** has been tested in laboratories during the current financial year (FY 2025-26) up to 29th December, 2025. Furthermore, the State/ UT laboratories have been made accessible to the public for water sample testing at nominal rates, fostering enhanced transparency and citizen engagement.

Status of testing of drinking water samples in 2025-26 (as on 28/12/2025)

Lab Testing Status



FTK Testing Status



Source: JJM-IMIS

Complementing this institutional effort, the Mission actively promotes community ownership and women's participation: **at least five women in every village are currently undergoing training to utilize Field Test Kits (FTKs) for routine water quality checks**. This community-based initiative has demonstrated considerable success, with more than **37 lakh** water samples having been tested using FTKs during the current financial year up to 29th December, 2025. In its pursuit of excellence and efficiency, the DDWS is proactively leveraging global best practices and fostering domestic innovation. Key departmental initiatives include organizing an International WASH Conference to facilitate the exchange of knowledge on sustainable water management strategies, and launching an Innovation Challenge specifically designed to encourage the development and deployment of low-cost, easily scalable products and technologies essential for advanced water quality monitoring.

Additionally on monitoring front, the **district and state dashboards are now populated with water borne disease outbreak data** so that the states can correlate, appreciate and take timely measure on curtailment of such outbreaks in connection with the safe drinking water provisioned under the JJM.

A defining feature of this phase was the **integration of legacy water supply schemes**, including those constructed under earlier programmes such as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

By the later years of implementation of JJM, India had successfully built a vast rural water infrastructure network and achieved coverage at an unprecedented scale. **The backbone had been created and access significantly expanded.**

This achievement laid the foundation for the Mission's next transition, from building and expanding infrastructure to strengthening systems, institutions, and service delivery mechanisms.

From Coverage to Collaboration and Communication

1. Digital Reforms for Service-Oriented Water Governance

In 2025, **Jal Jeevan Mission** undertook a decisive shift in its digital strategy – from using technology primarily for progress reporting to embedding digital systems as **core instruments of governance reform**. This transition supported the Mission's movement from infrastructure

creation towards **service delivery, sustainability, accountability, and citizen-centric water governance**, particularly during the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) phase.

The digital transformation agenda was structured around **four interlinked reform pillars**, each reinforcing institutional capacity and evidence-based decision-making across governance levels.

1. Unified Water Data Architecture for Service Governance

Sujalam Bharat Database – “Water as One Data”

The Sujalam Bharat Database was established as a unified national drinking water information system, integrating data on water sources, infrastructure assets (legacy and JJM), service functionality, and sustainability indicators. By converging scheme-level information with national hydrological and groundwater datasets, the platform enables lifecycle asset management, sustainability planning, and risk-informed decision-making. This reform replaced fragmented, scheme-centric datasets with an interoperable architecture aligned to the principle of “*Water as One Data*”.

To operationalize this architecture at the field level, the **Sujalam Bharat mobile application**-developed in collaboration with BISAG-N enabled geo-tagging of rural water supply assets. Spatially verified asset data improved transparency, strengthened O&M planning, and enhanced accountability in infrastructure monitoring.

2. Data-Driven Source Sustainability and Risk Management

Decision Support System (DSS)

A Decision Support System was operationalised at district and Panchayat levels to embed scientific analysis into routine planning. Integrated with Sujalam Bharat and national water datasets, the DSS supports source sustainability risk assessment, prioritisation of recharge and conservation measures, and convergence planning with programmes such as MGNREGS and GPDP. This reform institutionalised sustainability and climate resilience as operational responsibilities, reducing risks of service disruption in water-stressed regions.

3. Levelled Digital Governance Architecture

Role-Based Dashboards

A key structural reform was the operationalization of a **four-tier digital dashboard architecture**, aligned with clearly defined governance roles and statutory responsibilities:

- **JJM National Dashboard** – Strategic oversight, national benchmarking, and policy feedback
- **State (SWSM) Dashboard** – Planning, performance management, and inter-district coordination
- **District (DWSM) Dashboard** – Operational command centres for O&M, service delivery, and water quality monitoring which includes a dedicated digital module for recording

District Water and Sanitation Mission meeting minutes was integrated with the DWSM dashboard. The module enables systematic documentation of decisions, timelines, and follow-up actions, strengthening statutory review processes, inter-departmental coordination, and accountability at the district level.

- **Gram Panchayat (GP) Dashboard** – Monitoring of water supply schemes, water quality, household tap connections, O&M arrangements, and local-level planning and service management; citizen interface for identifying local functionaries and submitting feedback; digital repository for VWSC meeting minutes and IEC materials to support transparency and capacity building.

This architecture institutionalized a two-way governance flow, wherein data moves upward from villages to districts, states, and the national level, while decisions, technical support, and accountability flow downward in a structured and time-bound manner. This reform repositioned dashboards from passive monitoring tools to **active instruments of service governance and decision support**.

4. Digital Empowerment of Panchayats and Communities

Panchayat Dashboard and Jal Seva Aankalan

A dedicated Panchayat Dashboard, integrated with the e-Gram Swaraj platform, was introduced to provide Gram Panchayats with consolidated access to water and sanitation data. Panchayat representatives can monitor scheme functionality, water quality, household tap connections, O&M arrangements, and sanitation progress within their jurisdiction. Citizen-facing features enable identification of local functionaries and submission of feedback, strengthening transparency and downward accountability. The dashboard also serves as a repository for VWSC meeting minutes and IEC materials, supporting local capacity building.

Complementing this, **Jal Seva Aankalan (JSA)** was institutionalised as a governance reform tool rather than a survey. It enables community-led self-assessment of service delivery and O&M, validated through Gram Sabha processes. By anchoring performance assessment in village institutions, JSA bridged technical monitoring with lived service experience, positioning communities as co-owners of water service outcomes.

NIC's Role in Strengthening Digital Governance under JJM

National Informatics Centre (NIC) acts as the key technical collaborator to JJM by co-designing the Mission's Digital Public Infrastructure, including JJM-IMIS, Sujalam Bharat Database, dashboards, GIS-enabled platforms, and Panchayat-level applications & integrations with various entities.

Going forward, NIC will strengthen interoperability, advanced analytics, and decision-support systems to support sustainable, community-managed and service-oriented rural water supply governance.

3. Joint Inspection Initiative

To ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of the JJM, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) has pioneered a robust joint inspection mechanism. This initiative marks a shift towards rigorous field-level verification and accountability in the implementation of rural water supply schemes. Since April 2025, a systematic approach to self-certification has been implemented. Under this framework, States/ UTs undertake monthly inspections of four specific schemes identified by the NJJM. This process transitioned to a digital approach in August 2025, with the identification, assignment, and reporting of schemes integrated directly into the State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) Dashboard of the JJM IMIS. As of December 2025, a total of 1,117 schemes have been assigned to States/ UTs for field inspection.

For carrying out inspections, a joint team comprising both technical and administrative officers in coordination with District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs) are constituted under the supervision of SWSM. This collaborative structure ensures that monitoring is not merely a technical audit but a comprehensive administrative review. The joint teams evaluate the schemes against a multifaceted set of criteria to ensure holistic functionality:

- **Infrastructure & Quality:** Assessment of construction quality and adherence to engineering standards.
- **Timelines & Reliability:** Monitoring progress against established deadlines and ensuring consistent service delivery.
- **Data Integrity:** Verifying the accurate representation of scheme assets and progress on the IMIS database.
- **Compliance:** Reviewing issues raised by third-party inspection agencies and documenting any major irregularities.

Furthermore, the Department has also issued an advisory to all States covering the following aspects:

- i. States are encouraged to proactively identify additional schemes of their own within their districts for inspection.
- ii. The SWSM may also consider quarterly review meetings to discuss inspection findings, share best practices identified and address systemic challenges with participation of all stakeholders

- iii. In cases of negligence or malpractice in the implementation of JJM, appropriate administrative and/or legal action must be initiated against the officials or agencies found responsible for such irregularities, and the action taken report should be furnished to this Department.

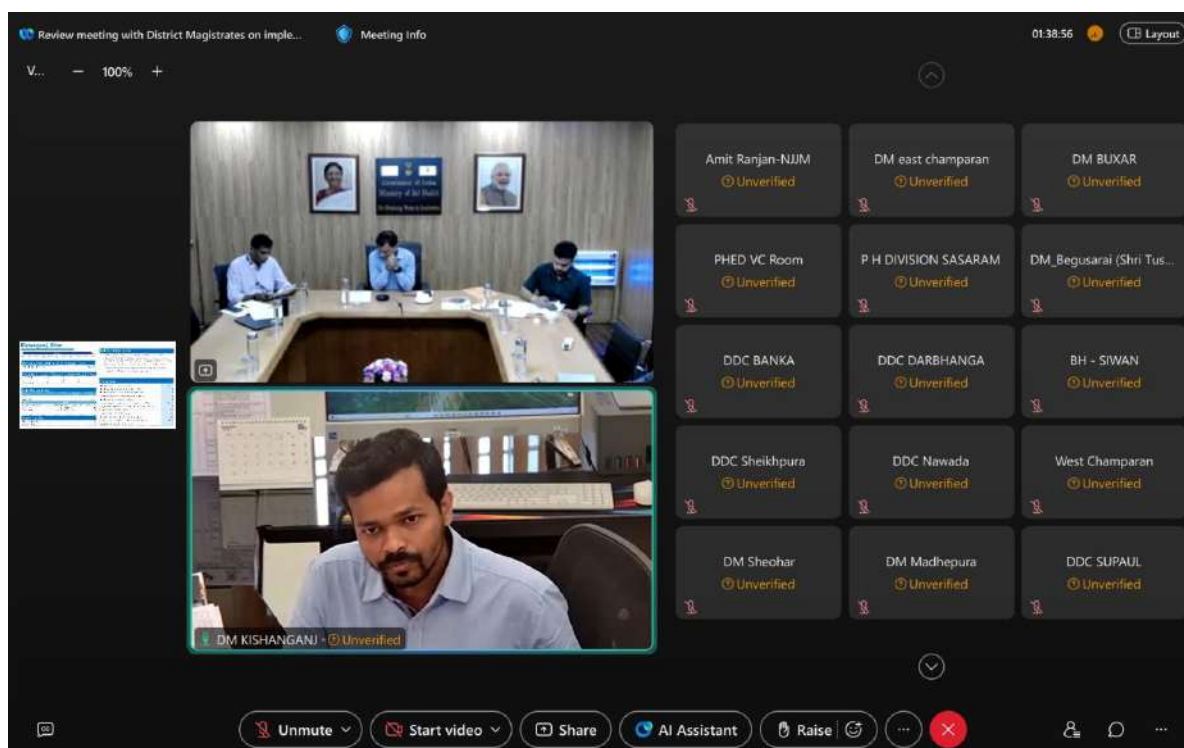
4. Dialogues and Communication

i. **Consultation-cum-Review Meeting on Jal Jeevan Mission and its extension was convened in New Delhi on 11th March 2025**, bringing together senior officials from States and Union Territories to comprehensively review the progress and future direction of the Mission. The discussions covered the status of sanctioned schemes, physical and financial progress, timelines for achieving *Har Ghar Jal*, management of residual liabilities, and the readiness of States to transition towards sustainable operation and maintenance. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening drinking water governance at State, district, and Gram Panchayat levels, enhancing water quality surveillance, and aligning implementation strategies through clearly defined institutional arrangements. The consultation provided a strategic platform for collective reflection and course correction, reinforcing a shared commitment to delivering reliable, citizen-centric, and sustainable rural drinking water services.

ii. **Series of one-on-one review interactions with district leadership, May 2025 onwards**
The AS&MD, National Jal Jeevan Mission, chaired a series of Jal Jeevan Samvad review meetings with DMs/DCs across States/ UTs to strengthen last-mile implementation and service delivery under JJM.

Key areas of emphasis: Regular conduct of DWSM and DISHA meetings, scheme saturation under PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA, source sustainability planning, resolution of water quality issues, timely grievance redressal, and activation of Gram Panchayat and VWSC dashboards through e-GramSwaraj portal linkages of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Cumulatively, 729 DMs/DCs participated in Jal Jeevan Samvad.



AS&MD-NJIM chairing Jal Jeevan Samvad meeting with DMs/ DCs

iii. District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad

DDWS launched **District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad** as a structured dialogue platform under the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2025. The **first edition**, held on **14th October 2025**, marked the initiation of a dedicated forum to democratising water governance through structural reforms at district and

Panchayat levels, with a focus on empowering grassroots stakeholders for shared custodianship of rural piped water supply systems. Building on this momentum, **three subsequent editions were organised during the year.**



1st edition of District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad held under the chairmanship of Secretary DDWS, Shri Ashok KK Meena

The **second edition**, held on **30th October 2025**, focused on **source sustainability and strengthening regulatory mechanisms**, while the **third edition**, convened on **27th November 2025**, reaffirmed **grassroots leadership and community ownership** as core priorities for assured service delivery. The **fourth edition** further reinforced the principles of **Jal Arpan, Jal Bandhan and Jal Sankalp**, highlighting the role of Jan Bhagidari in sustaining rural water supply systems. Districts shared field-level innovations and best practices in **24x7 water supply, water quality management, community engagement, and operation & maintenance systems**, positioning District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad as a key governance instrument for peer learning, accountability, and long-term sustainability under the Mission.

For the details of all the four District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad, click on the links: [PressRelease 1](#), [PressRelease 2](#), [PressRelease 3](#), [PressRelease 4](#)



Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD-NJJM, chairing the 2nd edition of District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad

iv. **Sujal Gram Samvad**

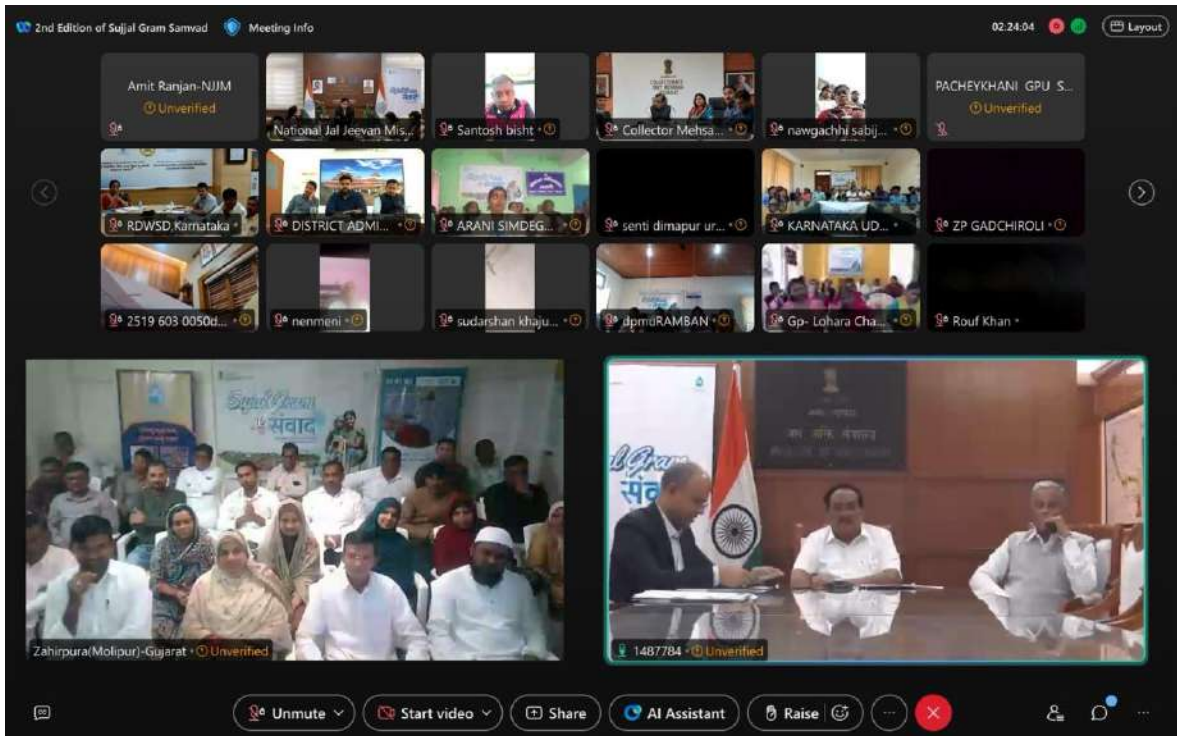
Sujal Gram Samvad institutionalised direct, multilingual dialogue with Gram Panchayats and village communities, creating a safe and inclusive space for villagers to speak openly and honestly, in the language of their choice, about service delivery challenges, local innovations, and sustainability concerns. This two-way engagement strengthened trust, grounded reforms in lived realities, and reinforced participatory governance under Jal Jeevan Mission.

For the details of Sujal Gram Samvad, click on the links: [PressRelease 1](#), [PressRelease 2](#)



Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, and Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri V. Somanna, along with Secretary DDWS in the 2nd edition of Sujal Gram Samvad





Glimpses of Sujal Gram Samvad

3. Knowledge Creation and Publications

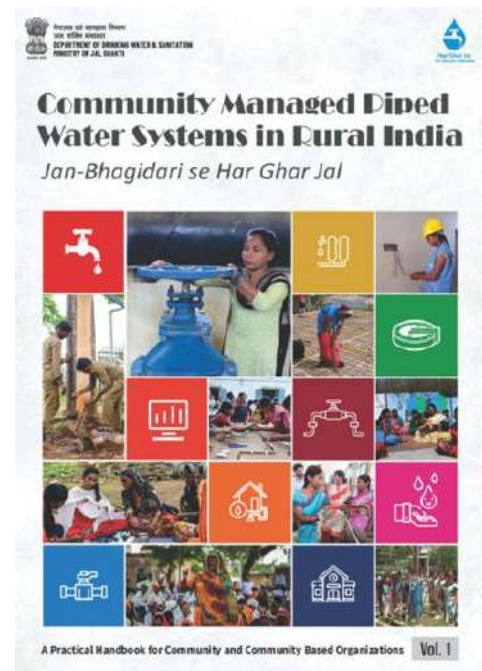
2025 witnessed a strong emphasis on **knowledge dissemination and institutional learning** to support sustainability reforms.

A landmark publication was the **Handbook on Community-Managed Piped Water Systems – “Jan Bhagidari se Har Ghar Jal”**. This first-of-its-kind guide provides comprehensive operational and governance protocols for Gram Panchayats, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Self-Help Groups, and community leaders. It outlines **commissioning and handing-over procedures, roles and responsibilities for O&M, and mechanisms for technical and administrative escalation**.

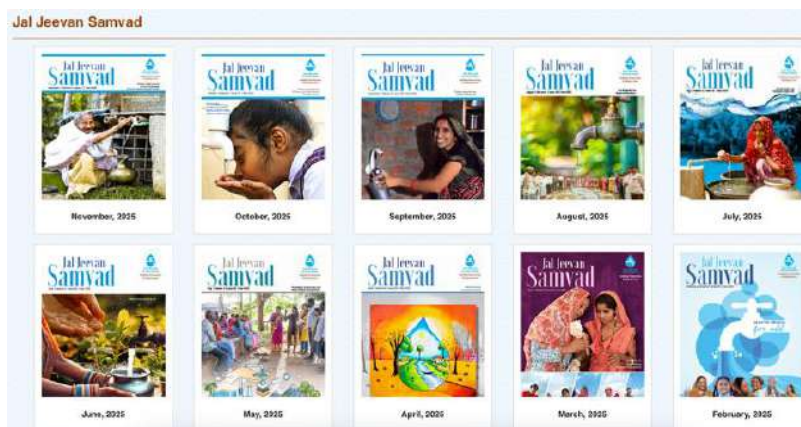
Beyond technical guidance, the handbook places strong emphasis on community-led practices and participatory exercises that translate ownership into action. It introduces **Jal Utsav** as a po

werful people-centric framework to translate *Jan Bhagidari* into sustained action. Conceptualised as a **three-tier community movement – Jal Mahotsav** at the national level, **Jal Rajyotsav/ Nadi Utsav** at the State/UT level, and **Lok Jal Utsav** at the Gram Panchayat and village level, it moves the focus beyond infrastructure creation to long-term operation, maintenance, and source protection.

A key innovation detailed in the handbook is the **District Technical Unit (DTU)** – a specialised institutional mechanism designed to bridge the gap between policy and ground-level implementation.



Jal Jeevan Samvad, the monthly newsletter has evolved into a **living repository of governance insights, field innovations, policy updates, and best practices**, documenting the Mission's progress on a continuous basis. By capturing district-level experiences, State initiatives,



and national policy directions in a structured and accessible format, the newsletter serves as a valuable reference for administrators, practitioners, and partners. It also reinforces transparency and institutional memory, ensuring that lessons learned are systematically recorded and disseminated.

Access the newsletter here: <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/jal-jeevan-samvad>

2025 saw the release of several **thematic and narrative publications** that documented the Mission's social impact, inclusivity, and transformational outcomes. These included:

- **“Stories of Change”**, highlighting Jal Jeevan Mission's impact among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs);
- **“Transformational Stories: Redefining Lives Through Water”**, capturing community-level narratives of social and economic change enabled by assured water supply; and
- **“Peyjal: Jan Shakti ki Abhivyaakti”**, celebrating the contribution of Village Water and Sanitation Committee members and grassroots leaders.
- **“Jal Jeevan Mission: Breaking the Social Barriers”**, documenting how access to safe drinking water has contributed to dignity, gender equity, improved health outcomes, and social inclusion

Access the publications here: <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/publication-report>

4. Jal Arpan – Community Ownership and Cultural Anchoring

A key reform initiative for **community ownership and Jan Bhagidari** has been the **Jal Arpan Diwas**, which formally marks the **handover of rural water supply systems to communities**. Unlike certification of tap water connections, Jal Arpan Diwas represents the symbolic and practical moment when responsibility for operating, maintaining, and safeguarding the entire water system transitions from construction-led implementation to **community-led stewardship**. Hosted in village water assets such as pump houses and overhead tanks, the ceremonies typically involve Panchayat leaders, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Self-Help Groups, youth groups, and community volunteers. Through cultural rituals, **Jal Chaupal** discussions, and

public commitments, villagers affirm their shared responsibility for the system's long-term sustainability.

The essence of Jal Arpan lies in people's active participation in the governance and management of water resources. It reinforces that water systems are not assets to be merely built and handed over, but community commons to be sustained collectively. Suggested activities associated with Jal Arpan Diwas celebrations include **Jal Sankalp**, **Jan Vandana**, **Jal Bandhan**, local cleanliness drives, water-quality awareness sessions, Gram Sabha discussions on O&M preparedness, and public recognition of VWSC members and volunteers, further strengthening village-level accountability.

In 2025, two major Jal Arpan Diwas celebrations – one in **Madhya Pradesh** and another in **Uttar Pradesh**, symbolised the mission-wide uptake of this practice, marking villages where water systems had successfully completed trial runs and were ready for community-led management.

The first **Jal Arpan Diwas** was celebrated on **23rd December 2025** in **Kundibey village, Rajgarh district, Madhya Pradesh**, India's first **24x7 water supply village**, marking the formal handing over of the village water supply scheme to the community.





First Jal Arpan Diwas celebrations in Kundibey village in Madhya Pradesh

Another Jal Arpan event was held on 26th December 2025 in J. Tikoniya-3, GP - Jangl Tinkonia No. 2, Block: Chargawan in Gorakhpur district of UP.





Jal Arpan Diwas celebrations in J. Tikoniya-3 village in Uttar Pradesh

5. Collaborations and Convergence

In 2025, Jal Jeevan Mission deepened **strategic collaborations** to strengthen digital governance, community leadership, and convergence across the WASH ecosystem, reinforcing the Mission's transition towards sustainable service delivery.

5.1 Strategic Partnerships Driving Sustainability

a. To advance **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the WASH sector**, the **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation** and **Arghyam** signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 19 February 2025. The partnership aims to conceptualise and implement a robust digital ecosystem supporting both JJM and SBMG, strengthening data-driven governance, interoperability, and long-term sustainability.

b. Strengthening **nutrition-water-sanitation convergence**, the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** partnered with the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for the 7th edition of *Poshan Pakhwada 2025*. Conducted from 8th to 23rd April 2025 under the theme "*Purn Poshan Ki Shuruwaat, Shuddh Jal aur Swachhta Ke Saath*", the campaign reinforced the role of safe drinking water and sanitation as foundational enablers of nutrition outcomes, with extensive community-level awareness and sensitisation activities across States and Union

Territories.

c. To promote **quality-driven, Gram Panchayat-led development**, DDWS entered into an MoU with the **Quality Council of India** on 3rd September 2025. The collaboration focuses on strengthening Panchayat leadership through initiatives such as *Sarpanch Samvaad*, while embedding quality assurance approaches across rural water and sanitation interventions, supporting the vision of *Swachh Sujal Gaon*.

d. Further strengthening **technology-enabled governance**, DDWS partnered with **BISAG-N** to develop a **GIS-integrated Decision Support Platform** for Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). This collaboration brings advanced geospatial analytics and real-time visualisation capabilities to Mission platforms, enhancing planning, monitoring, and informed decision-making across administrative levels.

e. Jal Jeevan Mission initiated collaboration with the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**, **Ministry of Education** to engage youth and students in field-based learning and social audits. Following consultations and preparation of standard audit tools, supervised student teams from AICTE institutions and MyBharat/NSS were identified to assess rural water supply schemes and Gram Panchayats, with the first phase of exposure visits scheduled from **January 2026**.

5.2 Whole-of-Government Convergence for WASH

Alongside these strategic partnerships, Jal Jeevan Mission continued to strengthen a Whole-of-Government approach, embedding WASH priorities across allied national programmes and institutions.

- **Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB- G RAM G)** – allocation earmarked for critical and sub-critical blocks for source sustenance works.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** – cluster federations for capacity building of GPs and VWSCs.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) / Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI)** – for Nal Jal Mitra training, VWSC skill development
- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** – Meri panchayat app for citizen information and feedback, empowering GPs technically and financially for managing the in-village infrastructure.
- **Ministry of Cooperation** – engagement of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) for

O&M.

- **Department of Youth Affairs (DoYA)** – engagement of youth through My Bharat Portal for infra audit and field level feedback
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW)** – Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) data is integrated at block level for water borne diseases surveillance

Together, these convergences ensured that water supply systems are supported not only by sectoral programmes, but by a broader governance ecosystem.

5.3 Mainstreaming WASH Education

To embed water consciousness from an early age, DDWS collaborated with **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)** for incorporation of **WASH components in NCERT textbooks for Classes 1-8**. This reform recognises that long-term water security depends not only on infrastructure and institutions, but also on values, behaviours, and awareness cultivated across generations. By integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene concepts into formal education, Jal Jeevan Mission strengthened the social foundations of sustainability.



7. Progress on Safely Managed Drinking Water: JMP-WaSH Update

Access to Safely Managed Drinking Water Supply for 1.11 Billion People

The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP-WaSH) report published in 2022 indicated that India's safely managed drinking water supply stood at 73.02% overall, with rural coverage at 68.20% and urban coverage at 81.62%. However, India's representation in the global analysis was limited due to insufficient water quality data for urban areas. To address this issue, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) worked with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to gather comprehensive rural data, while the Ministry of Urban and Housing Affairs (MoUHA) provided urban water supply data. Additionally, DDWS conducted independent assessments of water supply functionality in 2020, 2022, and 2024, documenting the actual conditions of drinking water supply in rural India. This data was shared with JMP-WaSH to enhance India's representation in the global analysis. Consequently, India's complete data was included in the 2024 report, reflecting improved data quality.

The 2024 JMP-WaSH report, titled **“Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene 2000-2024,”** shows that overall safely managed coverage increased to 76.44%, a rise of

3.42 percentage points since 2022. Rural coverage improved to 72.63%, an increase of 4.43 percentage points, while urban coverage reached 82.97%, up by 1.35 percentage points. This means that approximately 1.11 billion people in India now have access to safely managed drinking water, with around 665 million people in rural areas benefiting from this service. The progress in rural areas is notable compared to the 2015 baseline of 53.54%. Before the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, safely managed coverage in rural areas was below 60%, with the focus mainly on basic services. The mission's goal of providing safely managed drinking water, defined as water that is accessible on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination, has significantly improved the situation. Safely managed coverage in rural areas increased from **60% in 2018 to 72.63% in 2024**, contributing to the national coverage of 76.44%. Since the 2022 report, India has achieved a **3.42 percentage point increase** in safely managed coverage, ranking among the top 10 fastest-improving nations globally, with an overall improvement of **15 percentage points since 2015**. **India ranks second among BRICS nations** in providing safely managed services and leads all South Asian countries in this indicator.

8. Key Events

i. JJM Special Guests for 76th Republic Day Celebrations 2025

DDWS invited **172 special guests from 27 States/UTs** as a part of 10,000 grassroots leaders invited by the Government of India for the 76th Republic Day celebrations. The Department honoured members of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) in a special event in Delhi on 27th January 2025, which was graced by the Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri C.R. Patil and Hon'ble Ministers of State – Shri V Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary.

Read more about it here: [PressRelease](#)



Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, along with Hon'ble Ministers of State Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, senior officials and special invitees



Union Minister Shri C. R. Patil along with the Special Guests for Republic Day

ii. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil inaugurated Two-Day National Workshop on “Policy Framework for Operation & Maintenance of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes”

The workshop focussed on long-term sustainability, digital monitoring tools, and community ownership. AI, GIS, Space Tech, and Digital Platforms were positioned as enablers of sustainable rural water service delivery

The workshop reaffirmed JJM’s four pillars: People’s Participation (Jan Bhagidari), Stakeholder Collaboration, Political Will, and Optimal Resource Use. The 1st edition of Niwas Vartika, quarterly newsletter of SPM NIWAS, was also released. For more details, click: [PressRelease](#)



Shri C. R. Patil, MoJS with senior officials of DDWS/State/UTs

iii. Union Minister Shri C R Patil inaugurated Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave

On 15th September 2025, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, inaugurated the **Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave**, convened by the Quality Council of India (QCI) in collaboration with **DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj** under the theme '**Viksit Gram se Viksit Bharat**'.

The conclave brought together 75 distinguished Sarpanches from 22 States to deliberate on thematic areas aligned with Localised Sustainable Development Goals and showcased the potential of digital platforms to empower grassroots leadership. The event marked the historic onboarding of over 60,000 Sarpanches onto the Sarpanch Samvaad mobile application. The event details can be accessed here: [Press Release](#)



Inauguration of the Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave

iv. DDWS organized a virtual workshop on “Sustainability of Drinking Water” under Sujalam Bharat Summit on 26th September

States that shared experiences and best practices on source sustainability were Assam, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. To read more about this workshop, click [Press Release](#)



Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, gracing the Workshop on “Sustainability of Drinking Water” under Sujalam Bharat Summit

v. Secretary, DDWS Honoured for Contribution to PM-JANMAN

Hon’ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, conferred an award upon **Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS**, in recognition of his **exemplary leadership in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)**.

The award was presented during the National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, held on 17 October 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS receiving award from Hon’ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu

vi. One-day RWPF workshop on “Communication and PRA Tools for Jan Bhagidari” under Jal Jeevan Mission on 12th November 2025

Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil addressed the workshop and launched several key initiatives:

- i) Decision Support System (DSS) for Source Sustainability
- ii) JJM Panchayat Dashboard
- iii) First episode of Community Radio Programme – “Swachh Sujal Gaon Ki Kahani: Radio Ki Zubani”
- iv) Handbook on Community-Managed Piped Water Systems in Rural India – “Jan Bhagidari se Har Ghar Jal”

For more details on the workshop, click here: [PressRelease](#)



Representatives of RWPF with DDWS officials in the workshop

vii. Vision for Sujalam Bharat Conference (28–29 November 2025)

DDWS led a focused session on **Sustainability of Drinking Water**. The session highlighted the Sujalam Bharat Database, Sujal Gaon ID, and Decision Support System, enabling data-driven planning and timely support. Emphasis was placed on community ownership, strong local institutions, and digital governance as the foundation for long-term water security.



Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, outlining the Sujalam Bharat framework
Source: NJJM

viii. Sujalam Bharat App launch - Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil launched the App on 10th December 2025

Building the digital backbone for Viksit Bharat 2047, Sujalam Bharat App integrates every rural water scheme into a Unified System. Villages will get real-time access to rural drinking water supply assets. The States/UTs were trained to operationalize the new platform nationwide. More information can be accessed here: [PressRelease](#)



Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, launching the Sujalam Bharat App

ix. Jal Seva Aankalan Launch on 30th December 2025

A transformative reform of 2025 was the launch of **Jal Seva Aankalan**, a Gram Panchayat-led functionality assessment mechanism for Har Ghar Jal villages. Unlike periodic third-party surveys, Jal Seva Aankalan is a **community-owned, institutionalised self-assessment**, rooted in Gram Sabha deliberations.

The process assesses key service parameters – regularity, adequacy, water quality, O&M, source sustainability, and village-level management. Findings are publicly disclosed through digital platforms, with a structured citizen feedback window, reinforcing transparency and trust. Aggregated data is used by districts and States solely for facilitative support and planning.



e-Launch of Jal Seva Aankalan by Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil in the presence of Ministers of State, Shri V. Somanna and Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary along with Secretary DDWS, Shri Ashok K.K. Meena

x. Swachh Sujal Gaon

DDWS has been focusing on ensuring all villages progress towards becoming ‘Swachh Sujal Gaon’, reflecting the commitment towards strengthening drinking water and sanitation services in rural India. Swachh Sujal Gaon villages are those village that are ODF Plus (Model) verified under SBM(G) and Har Ghar Jal certified under JJM.

Under this, efforts are directed towards guiding States/UTs to publish social media posts from their District and State handles to promote those villages that have achieved the Swachh Sujal Gaon status using the hashtags #SwachhSujalGaon and #स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव.

The hashtag report for the same is: -

#SwachhSujalGaon

- No. of tweets with #SwachhSujalGaon - 3685
- Total Reach - 4,483,190
- Total Impressions - 70,590

#स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव

- No. of tweets with #स्वच्छ_सुजल_गांव - 2655
- Total Reach - 2,132,153
- Total Impressions - 31,789

In addition, creatives for Swachh Sujal Gaon have been developed to reinforce its messaging and relevance. A community board/ poster has been designed to create awareness and encourage community action towards achieving clean, healthy, and water-secure villages. These are shared with States/UTs which are then translated the content into local vernacular languages for better understanding among rural communities and disseminating the core messaging of Swachh Sujal Gaon.

xi. **Swachh Sujal Gaon Ki Kahani: Radio Ki Zubani**

DDWS has launched a programme on community radio with an aim to connect with rural audiences across India through storytelling and dialogue. Under this, a programme called **“Swachh Sujal Gaon Ki Kahani: Radio Ki Zubani”** was launched under the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil in November. The programme will be aired through **100 radio stations** across the country in collaboration with Community Radio Association (CRA), in **13 national and 34 local dialects**. It features **two lively characters – Sujal Kumar and Swachhika Kumari**, who take listeners on an inspiring WASH journey across rural India, sharing real stories of transformation. To make the programme more interactive, it will include quiz competitions and community segments encouraging participation, awareness, and ownership among listeners.

xii. **Skilling**

i) Under JJM, the Multi-Skilling **Nal Jal Mitra Programme (NJMP)** has been conceptualised as a structured capacity-building initiative to ensure availability of skilled local human resources for operation and maintenance (O&M) of rural piped water supply schemes. The programme aims to train approximately 2.5 lakh youths through State/UT Skill Missions and

Programme Management Units, thereby creating a cadre of trained “Nal Jal Mitras” at the village level. These trained personnel, drawn from local communities, are equipped to function as scheme operators and to undertake routine and preventive maintenance, minor repairs and water quality-related tasks, ensuring long-term sustainability of JJM assets.

ii) The **Jal Vitaran Sanchalak** course, aligned to NSQF Level-4, has been designed to provide a balanced mix of technical competencies and soft skills, covering plumbing, pump operation, electrical and mechanical maintenance, water quality testing, record-keeping and community interface. The structured certification enables trained candidates to provide O&M services to Gram Panchayats and villages, thereby generating sustainable livelihood opportunities while strengthening service delivery under JJM.

iii) Training under NJMP is delivered through two distinct pathways:

- a. Short Term Training (STT) of 510 hours for fresh candidates and
- b. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) & Upskilling of 120 hours for experienced candidates and those who are already performing minor repair & maintenance tasks under O&M of water supply schemes.

iv) DDWS is actively coordinating with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and other stakeholders to leverage existing skilling ecosystems and programmes. Training under NJMP is being explored in convergence mode with flagship initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) and related State skilling frameworks, ensuring optimal utilisation of institutional infrastructure, standardised certification and scalable implementation. This convergence-based approach strengthens inter-ministerial coordination and supports creation of a skilled, village-level workforce for sustainable drinking water service delivery under JJM.

xiii. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee - National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS)

During the year, approximately 71 trainings (46 online & 25 In-person) have been conducted on SBM(G) verticals that have received participation of 1,714 participants from the National, State and District teams.

137 training programmes have been organized for various stakeholders and around 3,698 persons trained on various aspects of drinking water under JJM from January – December 2025.

xiv. National WASH Expert

SPM NIWAS has been entrusted with the task of empanelment and deployment of National WASH Experts for ground truthing and technical assistance to States in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

SPM NIWAS empaneled **129 NWEs** in 2025. During the year, **166 teams of NWEs have visited around 1197 villages** for ground truthing of the implementation work done under JJM.

The scope of NWEs in ground truthing of schemes has been broadened by including multiple aspects of the scheme in the reporting formats. NWEs to report on the source, physical progress of the scheme, review of DPR, functionality of scheme, community involvement/ VWSC functionality, water quality monitoring, etc. Additionally, NWEs also evaluate coordination, planning and review mechanism, source sustainability and water conservation, techno-commercial viability, quality assurance and commissioning, public complaints and grievance redressal.

NWEs are inspecting schemes in the field and beneficiary villages. DDWS has been organizing orientation training program for NWEs from time to time. The NWEs provide their observations to concerned State authorities including the DC/ DM after the completion of the visit and upload their field inspection report at JJM IMIS portal in the prescribed time limit. State Authorities upload their Action Taken Reports on the observations made by NWEs in their field inspection report. A mechanism has been put in place to display regular automatic alerts to stakeholders including State authorities for timely submission of ATRs.

xv. Foreign Delegates visit DDWS

India's achievements under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) attracted significant global attention in 2025, with several international delegations engaging directly with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS):

- **June 2025:** A study tour on "Public Water Supply Management in Denmark" was organized in Denmark from 1st-7th June, 2025. The study tour delegation comprised of Joint Secretary (Water), and Director, SBM-G from DDWS and officials from States.
- **June 2025:** The first meeting of Joint Working Group comprising of officers from India and Nepal constituted under MoU on enhancing cooperation between India and Nepal in Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector including waste management was held on 20th June, 2025 in DDWS, New Delhi where representatives of MEA, Nepal Embassy and DoWR also participated.
- **July 2025:** DDWS welcomed distinguished delegates, including Hon'ble Members of Parliament and senior officials from Nepal, for an interactive session held on 29th July, 2025, aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector. In addition to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and officials from DDWS, representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also participated in the deliberations.
- **August, 2025:** A delegation of technical experts visited the Terai region of Nepal to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the groundwater conditions in the Terai areas to identify key factors contributing in depletion of ground water resources and to recommend short-term and long-term measures and sustainable solutions to mitigate the crisis and improve water security from 10th-15th August, 2025.

- **October 2025:** Secretary, DDWS participated in UNC Water and Health Conference, 2025 at University of North Carolina at New Chapel Hill, United States from 27th-31st October, 2025. Secretary, DDWS highlighting the achievements of JJM and SBM-G at international stage.

These engagements reinforced India's global role as a pioneer in sustainable development and a champion of collaborative efforts to achieve universal access to clean water and sanitation.

xvi. Professor Chairs and Centre of Excellence

The JJM-Professor Chairs are to undertake functions like training & capacity building, outreach & consultancy, academic programmes, research & innovation in their assigned focus area. **A meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Secretary DDWS on 6th January, 2025 and 22nd September 2025 to review the activities of JJM Professor Chairs** and activities proposed for the current financial year. During these meetings, the importance of leveraging the institutional capacity of JJM Professor Chairs to address the needs of WASH sector has been emphasized. During the recent review meeting, discussions focussed on proposals of development of AI-based monitoring tools, Water Quality Index, financial sustainability frameworks, decentralized governance models, and GIS-based digital mapping, which are significantly strengthening the data value chain from collection to actionable decision-making.

xvii. Technical Committee

A Technical Committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India was reconstituted by DDWS to examine innovative technologies and Research & Development (R&D) projects. The Committee invites innovative technologies and R&D proposals through the DDWS online portal, with a specific focus on the drinking water and sanitation sectors.

These proposals undergo a rigorous evaluation process to assess their potential in addressing sectoral challenges. As on date, the Technical Committee has recommended **32 innovative projects** (24 related to water and 8 related to sanitation) across nine rounds of its meetings. The Technical Committee has also approved **8 Research & Development Projects**. These R&D projects are undertaken by premier institutes like the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IIMT), and Centre for Water Resources Development & Management (CWRDM).

The Technical Committee has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, vide order dated 13th October 2025.

Conclusion

Collectively, these initiatives establish 2025 as the year in which Jal Jeevan Mission decisively moved from building infrastructure to **building systems** – systems that are digitally enabled,

institutionally grounded, community-owned, and designed to deliver water reliably, every day. The structural reforms undertaken during the year provide a strong foundation for the Mission's next phase, ensuring that the gains achieved in coverage are translated into lasting, sustainable outcomes for rural India.