



DDWS Organises First Multilingual Sujal Gram Samvad; Villagers Share Stories of Transformation under JJM

A first-of-its-kind platform connecting Gram Panchayat headquarters villages, districts, States/UTs, and DDWS through regional-language dialogue

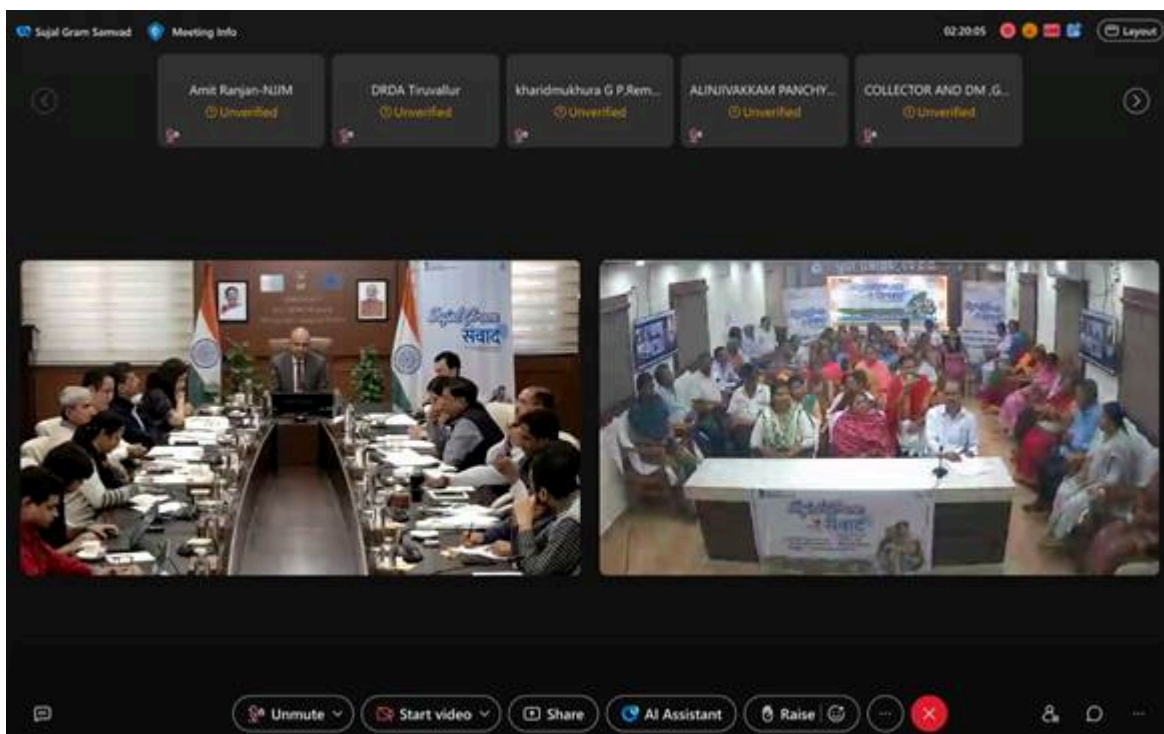
People across the country listen to grassroots voices and experiences in their own languages

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The inaugural **Sujal Gram Samvad**, organised by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti today, emerged as a national platform where villagers from across 12 States/UTs narrated – in their own regional languages – their stories of struggle, determination, and transformation under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Village representatives described how access to safe tap water has improved health, reduced water-borne diseases, enabled girls to attend school regularly, freed women from hours of water collection, and strengthened livelihood opportunities. Communities narrated how they came together to repair motors and pipelines, ensure uninterrupted supply, conduct water quality testing, promote water conservation, support user-charge collection, and establish grievance redressal systems.

These stories – shared with honesty and emotion in Odia, Tamil, Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Mizo, Rajasthani, Manipuri, Telugu, Maghi and Bundelkhandi languages, were heard across the country by over 1,500 participants. More than 800 people joined in interactive mode, while an equal number connected via YouTube, making the Samvad a truly national listening platform.



Live interaction in Odia language between Secretary DDWS and representatives of Belagam Village, District - Ganjam, Odisha

Stories From the Villages: Voices of Transformation

Odisha – Belagam Village, District - Ganjam

The Samvad opened with **Belagam village**, where villagers explained how user-fee collection, water quality testing, and community-level monitoring have strengthened daily water supply. The Secretary, DDWS interacted with them in **Odia**, appreciating their community leadership and women's involvement.

Madhya Pradesh – Beohari Village, District - Seoni

Villagers from **Beohari village** shared how they work collectively to keep motors functional, repair pipelines quickly, address electricity issues, and run awareness drives for saving water and preventing leakages. They spoke of healthier children and reduced drudgery for women.

Rajasthan – Nirjharana Village, District - Dausa

Representatives from **Nirjharana village** narrated in **Rajasthani**, how JJM has changed their daily lives – bringing dignity, certainty, and better health. **Smt. Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary, NJJM**, interacted with them in the local language, appreciating their traditional practices, water conservation measures, and community-led management of the water supply system.

Tamil Nadu – Alinjivakkam Village, District – Tiruvallur

Villagers from **Alinjivakkam** spoke about how regular tap water supply has improved family health and reduced the need for women to walk long distances. The VWSC here works closely with the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and ASHA workers to mobilise communities, promote safe water practices, and strengthen participation in the village water supply system.

Maharashtra – Sarola Village, District – Pune

Sarola villagers shared how tap connections have improved health, sanitation, and household routines. Women spoke of the time saved due to doorstep water availability and how this has opened opportunities for income generation and self-help group activities. They also spoke about water quality monitoring on a regular basis.

Mizoram – Khawruhliian Village, District – Aizwal

Interacting in Mizo, the villagers of **Khawruhliian** explained how their GP ensures O&M of water supply schemes despite terrain challenges. They highlighted their practices for spring protection, pipeline repairs, and community monitoring to ensure uninterrupted service.

Punjab – Parcha Village, District – Gurdaspur

Speaking in Punjabi, villagers from **Parcha** shared how consistent tap water supply has eased daily life and reduced the stress on women. They spoke about their regular water quality checks, plantation drives near water sources, and the strong role of women's groups in managing daily operations.

Gujarat – Takhatgadh Village, District – Sabarkantha

Villagers shared that their user-charge collection system is firmly in place. The state team highlighted how PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) are supporting the Gram Panchayat in managing and strengthening the village water supply system.

Manipur – Lairenjam Village, District – Imphal West

Speaking in Manipuri, representatives of **Lairenjam** village discussed how JJM has improved health, reduced drudgery, and provided dignity to women. They explained their practices in monitoring water quality, repairing pipelines, and mobilising community members.

Bihar – Kachariyadih Village, District – Nawada

Representatives from **Kachariyadih** described how access to safe tap water has significantly reduced water-borne illnesses and improved the lives of children and mothers. They shared how their community works through the Panchayat to maintain water sources and promote water quality awareness.

Andhra Pradesh – Enamadala Village, District – Eluru

Representatives from Enamadala village explained how the village regularly monitors water quality and conducts systematic testing through their well-equipped laboratory. They shared that prompt action is taken whenever leakages or supply-related issues arise, ensuring that households receive safe and uninterrupted drinking water.

Uttar Pradesh – Banka Pahari Village, District – Jhansi

The villagers describing their journey from water scarcity to reliable tap connections, spoke about the network of Jal Sahelis, who have been instrumental in mobilising the community, promoting water conservation, and monitoring supply systems.

Across all 12 States/UTs, villagers broadly described how they monitor water quality, manage local assets, conserve water, plant trees, improve source protection, and maintain grievance redressal systems, demonstrating strong ownership at the grassroots.



DDWS team in discussion with representatives from Khawruhliian village, District - Aizwal, Mizoram in Mizo language



Shri KVS Choudhary, MD – Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam attending the Sujal Gram Samvad session through VC

District administrations and the State Water and Sanitation Missions are playing a critical role in supporting villages and communities to strengthen and expand their efforts. From guiding villages in source sustainability and O&M planning to enabling convergence with MGNREGA, facilitating water quality testing, and helping communities adopt good practices, the districts and States are ensuring that the progress achieved under JJM is sustained and taken to the next level.

State-Wise Participation From GP Headquartering Villages

The following villages participated through structured 15-minute regional-language segments:

Odisha (Odia): Belagam, District - Ganjam

Madhya Pradesh (Hindi): Beohari, District - Seoni

Manipur (Meitei/Manipuri): Lairenjam, District - Imphal West

Rajasthan (Rajasthani/Marwari): Nirjharana, District - Dausa

Tamil Nadu (Tamil): Alinjivakkam, District - Tiruvallur

Andhra Pradesh (Telugu): Enamadala, District - Eluru

Punjab (Punjabi): Parcha, District - Gurdaspur

Gujarat (Gujarati): Takhatgadh, District - Sabarkantha

Maharashtra (Marathi): Sarola, District - Pune

Mizoram (Thadou/Mizo): Khawruhliian, District - Aizwal

Bihar (Bhojpuri/Maithili/Magahi): Kachariyadih, District - Nawada

Uttar Pradesh (Hindi/Bundelkhandi): Banka Pahari, District - Jhansi

A Platform for Shared Learning Across Governance Levels

One of the key objectives of the Sujal Gram Samvad was to ensure that the **learnings and good practices shared by villages are taken forward by district administrations and State Missions**. The dialogue with DCs/DMs and State Mission Directors helped ensure that these successful local efforts can be **adopted, strengthened, and expanded** at the district and State levels.

In his inaugural speech, Secretary, DDWS stated: **“The framework of Sujal Gram Samvad has been designed to listen to Gram Panchayats, understand their challenges, learn from their good practices, and recognise their leadership on the ground.”**

Following each village’s presentation, the **Additional Secretary & Mission Director (AS&MD), NJJM**, interacted with the village team, the District Collector/District Magistrate, and the State MD. He emphasised on Operation & maintenance of rural water supply systems; Convergence with MGNREGA; Source sustainability & water conservation; Regulated and equitable water supply; Water quality testing and monitoring; Grievance redress mechanisms; Panchayat dashboard utilisation; User-charge collection; Commissioning and handover protocols

In his closing remarks, the AS&MD highlighted three critical action points:

- 1. Use of the Panchayat Dashboard:** GPs must regularly log in, track all water supply details, and submit feedback or issues.
- 2. Training of village youth, especially girls:** GPs should identify youth through Gram Sabhas for technical training to manage village assets independently.
- 3. Protection of all drinking water sources:** He emphasised on long-term sustainability, referencing the **Revised MGNREGA Guidelines (Gazette Notification S.O. 4288(E), 23 Sept 2025)** mandating water-related expenditure for recharge, harvesting, and source protection.

The Samvad was chaired by Secretary, DDWS, Shri Ashok K.K. Meena and attended by AS&MD, NJJM, Shri Kamal Kishore Soan; JS-NJJM, Smt. Swati Meena Naik; senior DDWS officers; and District Collectors/District Magistrates, State MDs, members from SWSM and DWSM from all States/UTs, along with village representatives from all State/UTs.

Regional-Language Dialogue Strengthens Trust

The multilingual format of the Sujal Gram Samvad allowed communities to share openly in their own languages, creating comfort, trust, and authenticity. It deepened the connection between communities and institutions and helped the officials gain direct insight into the ground reality.

Going forward, the **Sujal Gram Samvad will be held periodically**, enabling continuous, structured, and inclusive dialogue between villages, districts, States, and DDWS. These efforts will continue with other states as well.

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