

DDWS Organised 13th District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad to Strengthen Community Ownership, Source Sustainability and Service Delivery under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

Five Districts from Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Jharkhand Showcase Innovative Practices in Rural Drinking Water Governance

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The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, organised the **13th edition of the District Collectors' Peyjal Samvad** today through video conferencing, bringing together senior officials, District Collectors/ District Magistrates, and Mission Directors of State/UTs to deliberate on accelerating the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 and sharing of best practices.



The Samvad was chaired by Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS. Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), and Senior Officers from DDWS were also present during the Samvad.

In his opening remarks, **Shri Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS**, said that this platform has emerged as an important platform for peer learning, enabling district administrations to share innovative practices and address implementation challenges in rural drinking water service delivery. He emphasised the pivotal role of District Collectors in strengthening local water governance, ensuring effective operation and maintenance of rural water supply systems, and promoting community ownership of assets created under the Mission.

Secretary, DDWS calls for Greater Accountability and Data-Driven Governance. He directed districts to ensure **regular monthly meetings of District Water and Sanitation Missions (DWSMs)** and timely uploading of meeting minutes on the DWSM Portal. He stressed that strong institutional monitoring and documentation are essential for transparency, accountability and effective programme implementation.

Highlighting the findings from **Jal Seva Aankalan**, Shri Meena urged districts to regularly review functionality assessment reports and district improvement plans available on the dashboard. He noted that water quality and energy-related disruptions continue to affect service delivery in many areas and called upon States and districts to explore solarisation of rural water supply schemes for improving reliability and operational efficiency.

He also emphasised the effective utilisation of the **Decision Support System (DSS)**, which integrates groundwater, rainfall, hydrological and Jal Jeevan Mission data. He encouraged district administrations to use the platform for evidence-based planning, identification of water-stressed areas, source sustainability planning and prioritisation of interventions.

Referring to the integration of drinking water sustainability efforts with other national initiatives, he urged districts to leverage convergence opportunities under **VB-G RAM G** and other programmes to undertake groundwater recharge, source protection and water conservation measures in vulnerable areas.

Secretary also emphasised that following the formal handover of drinking water supply schemes through **Jal Arpan**, the districts to retain the certificates in their respective local languages through Jal Arpan Module.

Shri Kamal Kishore Soan, AS&MD, NJJM, in his address underscored the importance of strengthening grassroots institutions for long-term sustainability of rural drinking water systems. He highlighted the need for systematic training and capacity building of Gram Panchayats, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), Panchayat Secretaries and **Sujalam Shakti Groups** to support operation and maintenance of drinking water infrastructure.

He emphasised that district administrations should encourage greater **utilisation of the DSS platform**, strengthen source sustainability planning in water-stressed areas and ensure convergence with ongoing rural development initiatives and VB-G RAM G to protect drinking water sources.



Shri Soan also encouraged districts to provide **exposure visits for higher-secondary and senior school students** to multi-village water supply schemes, water treatment facilities, laboratories and SCADA-enabled systems so that young citizens develop a deeper understanding of water infrastructure and water conservation.

Shri Y.K. Singh, Director (NJJM), made a presentation on the Jal Arpan module, highlighting its importance in ensuring the formal commissioning and handover of rural drinking water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats and communities. He explained the key stages of Jal Arpan preparedness, the reporting and monitoring framework through the DTU/DWSSM dashboard, and the digital workflow for Jal Arpan and Har Ghar Jal certification on the Gram Panchayat dashboard, while providing guidance on the step-by-step process for reporting and certification through the online module.

Innovative Best Practices Shared by Districts Through Presentations

During the Peyjal Samvad, a total of five districts presented their progress and best field practices which will further help other State's districts to develop better under JJM 2.0. Each presentation was delivered by the respective District Collector/ District Magistrate.

- **Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh – Sh. Mahender Singh Tanwar, District Magistrate & Collector** highlighted the district's efforts towards strengthening service delivery through regular review meetings, inter-departmental coordination and community participation. The district has undertaken extensive IEC activities involving schools, sports clubs and social media platforms to promote awareness on water conservation, water quality and responsible use of drinking water infrastructure. Community-based water quality surveillance is being strengthened through trained women volunteers using Field Test Kits, while regular laboratory testing and quality audits are helping ensure safe drinking water supply. The district further showcased the use of technology-driven monitoring mechanisms, including SCADA-based systems, digital grievance redressal platforms and the Jal Saarthi application for improved service monitoring. Efforts are also underway to develop GIS-based mapping of drinking water assets for better infrastructure management and planning.

Protocols for handing over of village infra

The DWDM has developed and issued a comprehensive set of protocols and guidelines to facilitate the systematic handover of village-level Piped Water Supply (PWS) infrastructure to the respective Gram Panchayats (GPs). These protocols clearly outline the roles, responsibilities, and timelines for all stakeholders involved — including the DWDM, Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs), and the GPs — to ensure smooth transition and sustainable management of the water supply systems.

Key components of the protocol includes: 1-**Inventory and Documentation** Preparation of detailed asset registers covering all civil, electrical, and mechanical components of the PWS scheme.

2-**Formal Handover Process** Execution of formal handover certificates between DWDM and GPs, ensuring accountability and transparency.

3-**Joint Verification** Conducting joint inspections by DWDM and GP representatives before final handover.



Jal Arpan Activity and Hand Over Scheme to Gram Pradhan
Village Ghimau Block Shivrajpur, Kanpur Nagar



- **West Tripura, Tripura - Dr. Vishal Kumar, District Magistrate & Collector's** presentation focused on strengthening community ownership and sustainability of drinking water systems Panchayats through active involvement of Gram Panchayats, Self-Help Groups and local communities. The district has made significant progress in user-charge collection and has undertaken extensive capacity-building programmes for Gram Panchayats on operation and maintenance, source sustainability and monitoring of water supply systems. SHGs are playing an important role in awareness generation, community mobilisation and social audit-related activities, thereby enhancing accountability and local participation. Given the challenges associated with water availability, the district is placing special emphasis on source sustainability through catchment protection, afforestation, rooftop rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and greywater management interventions. Scientific source mapping, preparation of Village Water Security Plans and convergence with other development programmes are helping strengthen long-term water security. The district also highlighted community-led efforts, including the involvement of Jal Sakhis and local institutions in promoting sustainable management of drinking water assets.

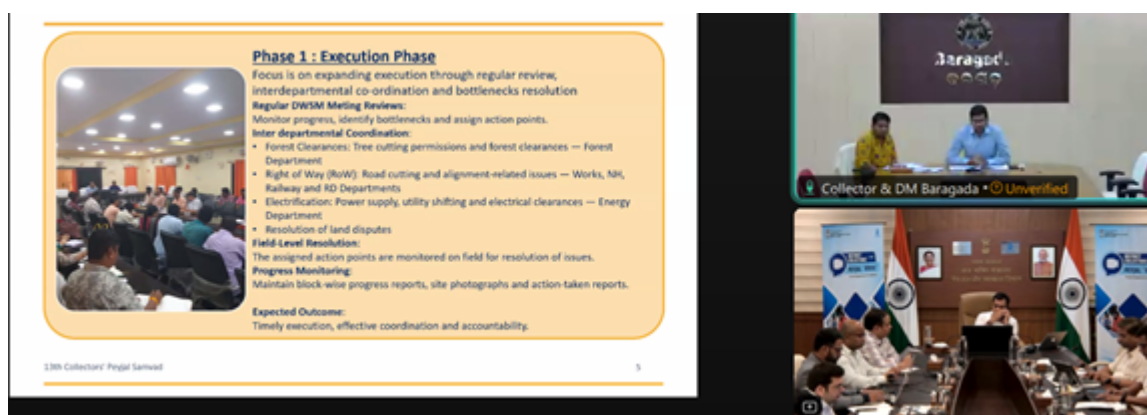


- **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu - Tmt. R. Revathi, District Collector,** showcased innovative practices aimed at strengthening drinking water security and sustainability through scientific planning and technology-led interventions. The district has undertaken village-level water budgeting exercises to assess present and future water demand, identify groundwater stress and guide investments in recharge and conservation measures. Community participation has been central to this exercise, with Gram Panchayats, VWSCs and local stakeholders actively involved in planning and implementation. The district has also promoted groundwater recharge, rooftop rainwater harvesting, rejuvenation of water bodies and micro-irrigation measures to improve long-term water security. He further highlighted the adoption of advanced technologies for improving drinking water service delivery. These include IoT-enabled

real-time monitoring systems, digital dashboards and smart flow-monitoring mechanisms for tracking water supply performance and reducing losses. Low-cost water disinfection systems have also been introduced to strengthen water quality management. The Secretary appreciated the district's work on water budgeting and encouraged the exploration of innovative approaches, including assessment of the feasibility of continuous rural water supply in suitable areas.



- **Baragada, Odisha – Sh. Aditya Goyal, District Magistrate & Collector** shared the district's structured approach towards implementation of rural water supply projects through a three-stage framework covering execution, commissioning and operation & maintenance. Strong inter-departmental coordination has helped resolve issues relating to land, power supply, forest clearances and right-of-way permissions, enabling timely progress of drinking water infrastructure projects. The district has also institutionalised monthly review mechanisms and community participation during the commissioning stage to identify and address issues such as leakages, unauthorised connections and restoration of affected infrastructure. Bargarh has further strengthened service delivery through proactive grievance redressal arrangements, regular field inspections and periodic water quality monitoring. The district highlighted notable success in ensuring reliable water supply through large multi-village schemes, including provision of round-the-clock piped water supply to IIM Sambalpur. The experience reflects the importance of effective project management, community engagement and sustained monitoring in achieving dependable drinking water services.



- **Palamu, Jharkhand – Sh. Dilip Pratap Singh Shekhawat, District Magistrate & Collector** highlighted its robust monitoring mechanisms, including regular review meetings, a dedicated district control room and grievance redressal systems for tracking the functionality of drinking water schemes. Capacity building of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) and community-level institutions is being

undertaken to facilitate effective operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure after handover. The district also showcased innovative approaches for source sustainability and community engagement. Convergence with MGNREGA and other programmes is being utilised for groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting works, while IoT-enabled monitoring systems are supporting real-time supervision of water supply schemes. Community-based water quality surveillance is being carried out through the combined efforts of Jal Sahiyas, Anganwadi Workers and Health Sahiyas. The district also highlighted its Jalkar Bhugtan Abhiyan, aimed at strengthening user-charge collection and ensuring sustainable operation and maintenance of rural drinking water infrastructure through greater community ownership and transparent financial management.



These presentations showcased achievements, ongoing challenges, and best practices under JJM underlining the diversity of approaches adopted to accelerate progress under Har Ghar Jal.

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