

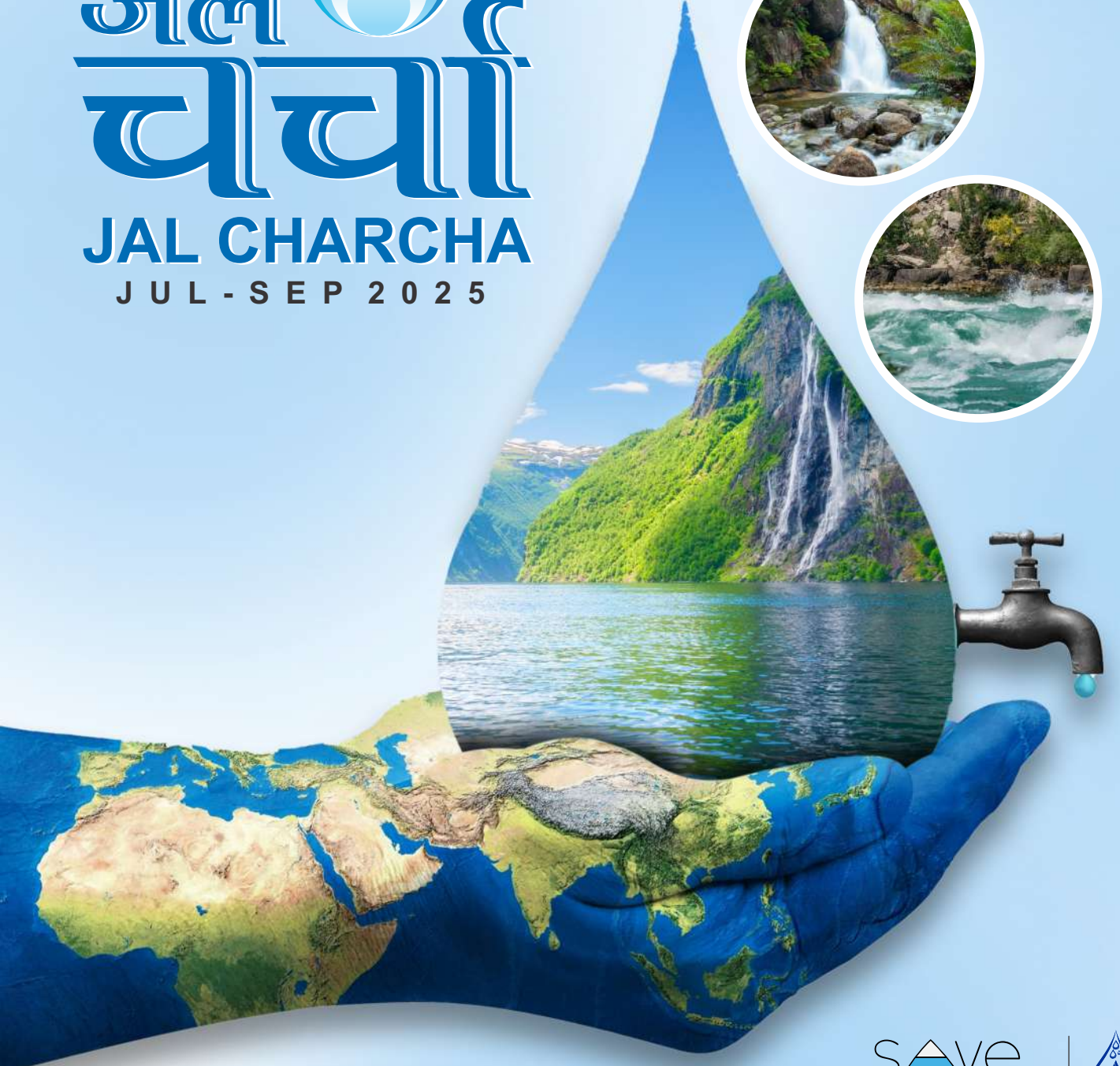


जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
भारत सरकार
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Government of India

जल चर्चा

JAL CHARCHA

JUL - SEP 2025



save
water





Every drop is nature's gift,
Without it, no life can exist.

THE WATER CON



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From the Chief Editor's Desk

Meeting the Water Needs of Billions and India's Path to 2047



In a country of billions, water sustains every household, every field, and every industry, making the task of meeting these needs one of India's greatest responsibilities and also its greatest opportunity. In recent months, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken significant strides to strengthen water security, improve river management, and build resilience against climate challenges. From citizen-led cleanliness drives to state-of-the-art flood forecasting, these initiatives reflect a holistic vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," one where water is managed sustainably and inclusively.

Public participation took center stage with the launch of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2025' campaign. Organized by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and its field offices, the initiative embraced the theme of 'Swachhotsav' to turn cleanliness into a people's movement. At Kalindi Kunj, the drive 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath' saw citizens come together in a powerful display of unity, proving that cleaner rivers and healthier surroundings begin with collective responsibility.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil set the tone for grassroots leadership by inaugurating the Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave. Designed to empower village leaders as custodians of water resources, the conclave showcased how digital platforms are transforming rural governance. The Minister underlined that technology is giving sarpanches a stronger voice, helping them exchange ideas, solve local challenges, and drive water management solutions that touch lives at the very heart of India's villages.

In parallel, scientific water management has received a strong boost. The National Perspective Plan for Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) continues to be a landmark initiative, designed to transfer water from surplus basins to deficit regions. With the

National Water Development Agency tasked to carry this forward, the ILR projects hold the promise of ensuring water reaches regions where it is most needed. Complementing this, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has commissioned multiple studies to assess environmental flows in the Ganga basin. The Minister described this initiative as an inclusive and science-based approach to rejuvenation and sustainable water allocation.

On the urban front, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has introduced a comprehensive Urban River Management Plan in Delhi, opening a new chapter in the revival of the Yamuna. Built on collaboration and forward-looking strategies, the plan places strong emphasis on partnerships, innovative solutions, and citizen engagement to restore one of the capital's most iconic rivers.

Technology has also emerged as a game-changer with the launch of C-FLOOD, a unified inundation forecasting system inaugurated by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti. This web-based platform provides advance forecasts up to two days ahead, offering flood inundation maps and water-level predictions down to the village level. By strengthening early warning systems, C-FLOOD is expected to significantly improve disaster preparedness and response. Further momentum was provided through a High-Level Review Meeting on Smart River Management, where the ministry placed focus on global collaborations, technology adoption, and innovation to ensure rivers are rejuvenated in a sustainable way.

Institutional cooperation has also gained fresh momentum. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) will streamline data sharing and strengthen

joint research. This partnership is expected to sharpen flood forecasting and risk management, giving India a stronger edge in tackling both riverine and flash floods.

In the northeast, the Brahmaputra Board has been equally proactive. Alongside workshops to build flood management and administrative capacity, it has launched a pioneering pilot project in Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, in collaboration with the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM). Here, the traditional wisdom of the Apatani tribe, particularly their centuries-old paddy-cum-fish cultivation system, is being integrated with modern techniques. By refining and replicating such practices in other districts, the project is creating a model for how indigenous knowledge and science can come together to shape a more sustainable water future.

From mobilizing citizens to empowering sarpanches, from deploying advanced technology to drawing on traditional wisdom, India's water sector is undergoing a remarkable transformation. These initiatives are not isolated; they are part of a larger vision to keep rivers thriving as lifelines of culture, economy, and ecology.

As these efforts gather pace, they capture the optimism of a nation determined to meet the water needs of billions. With people's participation, scientific innovation, and institutional collaboration at the heart of this journey, the Ministry of Jal Shakti is leading India toward a future that is both water-secure and resilient. This is not just about managing a resource, it is about safeguarding the foundation of India's growth and ensuring that by 2047, water becomes a source of strength for every household, every field, and every industry.

V.L. Kantha Rao
Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR
Government of India



INSIGHTS

Renewed Focus on Rainwater Harvesting & Groundwater Recharge With JSJB at the Core

India's water security hinges on how well we capture the monsoon and use it to recharge the aquifers that sustain households, farms, and industries. In the past year, the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has sharpened its focus on rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, moving from awareness to measurable action, with clearer targets and funding alignments. Groundwater recharge due to tanks, ponds, and other water conservation structures has nearly doubled in the last few years.

Jal Sanchay – Jan Bhagidari initiative, launched on 6th September 2024 by Hon'ble Prime Minister, is MoJS's community-driven programme focused on ground water recharge. It brings a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to build low-cost, locally appropriate recharge solutions like rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, borewell recharge, shafts, pits, and open-well revival at a large scale. JSJB explicitly emphasises community ownership, CSR participation, and convergence, so that every rupee invested creates durable storage below ground. Under this initiative, more than 37 lakhs work have been onboarded and nearly 23 lakhs are already completed.

This social mobilisation is now backed by stronger policy levers. On 23rd September 2025, the Government amended Schedule I of MGNREGA to prioritise water works based on the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)'s dynamic assessment of each rural block. The notification mandates that a minimum share of works (by cost) be devoted to water conservation and harvesting: 65% in over-exploited and critical blocks, 40% in semi-critical, and 30% in other blocks. This aligns public employment with hydrogeological risk and could channel tens of thousands of crores into recharge and drought resilience where it is most needed.

The message is clear: India's water future will be secured not just by big rivers and reservoirs, but by millions of small catchments, i.e., every rooftop, courtyard, field bund, and revived tank. With policy alignment, community participation, and science-based design, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge can turn monsoon into year-round water security beneath our feet.

Subodh Yadav

Additional Secretary
Department Of Water Resources,
RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti

Union Minister of Jal Shakti
Shri C.R. Patil
chaired a High-Level Review Meeting to discuss Smart River Management

The meeting focused on Innovations and International Collaboration for rejuvenation of rivers

The Union Minister commended on the collaborative spirit, technological innovation, and scientific depth demonstrated by the teams

Posted On: 09 JUL 2025 5:25PM by PIB Delhi

A significant high-level review meeting was held today in Delhi to discuss use of technology and innovations for rejuvenation of rivers across the country under the Namami Gange programme. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil and featured in-depth discussions on the future of technology and innovations in management of rivers in general and small rivers in particular.



The Union Minister commended the collaborative spirit, technological innovation, and scientific depth demonstrated by the teams. He emphasized the importance of translating these research outcomes into actionable on-ground interventions. Reiterating the Government's commitment to "Aviral aur Nirmal Ganga," Shri Patil directed all stakeholders to accelerate implementation and scale these initiatives across critical river systems, ensuring a cleaner, healthier, and water-secure future for the nation.

On this occasion, teams from IIT (BHU) under aegis of Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) developed in collaboration with Denmark and IIT Delhi under aegis of IND RIVERS developed in collaboration with Netherlands gave detailed presentations on two major innovation initiatives—IND-RIVERS focus on urban rivers and the Decision Support System for river rejuvenation and Management with focus on Varuna river. Both institutions showcased how their research and technological efforts would help in bringing a focused approach for sustainable river conservation.



The progress of the Small Rivers Management Tool (SRMT) was presented during the meeting as a Decision Support System (DSS) focused on river Varuna with a capability to be up scaled for other rivers and catchment areas. Designed as a scientific and fast-response tool for policymakers, SRMT forms the core of the Decision Support System for River Management. The DSS features advanced modules for population forecasting, water demand and supply estimation, sewage load analysis, and identification of priority zones for STPs. During a demo of the DSS, the Union Minister was also briefed on its robust login security and user-friendly interface designed to assist decision-makers effectively.

The meeting also spotlighted Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) a modern strategy for groundwater replenishment. A plan was shared to use real-time hydrogeological modelling to rejuvenate rivers by increasing the base flow. Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil also reviewed two ambitious projects Hydrogeological Modeling in the Varuna Basin and Fingerprint Analysis of Emerging Pollutants in the Ganga Basin. Both projects are leveraging state-of-the-art technologies like FloaTEM and LC-HRMS, offering a modern, scientific edge to river pollution monitoring and treatment efforts.

During the meeting, IIT Delhi presented a roadmap to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) under the INDRIVERS initiative, being undertaken in collaboration with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Government of the Netherlands. Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil was informed that this Centre will not only lead practical research but also serve as a hub for training and incubating startups in the water sector. Special focus areas include Urban River Management Plans, Digital Twin, AI-based geospatial modelling, water quality improvement, and treatment of emerging pollutants such as plastics. The initiative aims to open new frontiers of science and innovation for river conservation.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti

Shri C.R. Patil

chaired a crucial meeting to ensure environmental flow of River Ganga and its tributaries

Shri C.R. Patil

highlighted the need to evaluate the impact of the 2018 Environmental Flow Notification

Union Minister emphasised the need to assess whether the current e-flow framework needs improvement or augmentation & to better safeguard the Yamuna River's ecosystem

The National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved several studies to assess environmental flows in the Ganga basin

Shri C.R. Patil

described this initiative as an inclusive and scientific approach to water management

Posted On: 24 JUL 2025 8:19PM by PIB Delhi

In a significant step towards sustainable river management, Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri C.R. Patil today led a comprehensive meeting focused on the environmental flow (e-flow) of the Ganga River and its tributaries. The discussions emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure uninterrupted e-flow and enhance the overall health of the river eco systems.



Union Minister C.R. Patil's Initiative and Guidelines:

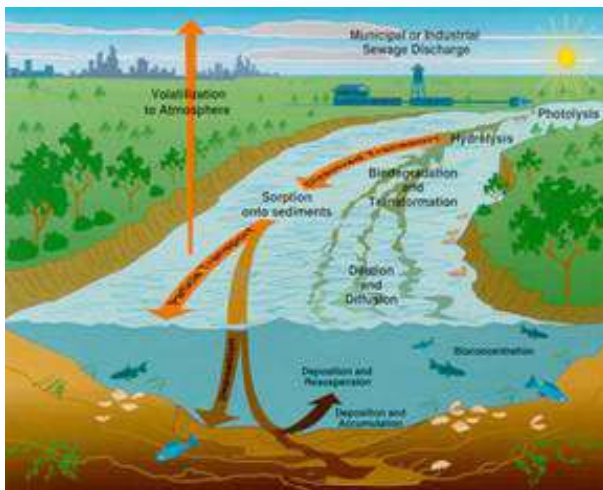
Union Minister C.R. Patil highlighted the need to evaluate the impact of the 2018 Environmental Flow Notification. He stressed that a robust and holistic action plan must be developed to enhance water flow in rivers to preserve river ecosystems and ensure balanced use of water resources.

Special Focus on Yamuna River:

Shri C R Patil emphasised the need to assess whether the current e-flow framework needs improvement or augmentation to better safeguard the Yamuna River's ecosystem. He called for concrete strategies and comprehensive plans to improve the water flow in Yamuna, especially in regions facing excessive water usage and pollution challenges.

Water Management and Ecological Balance:

Union Minister issued clear directions to expedite the assessment of all programs related to environmental flows. Timely evaluation of their effectiveness will help ensure that actions taken are aligned with the goal of preserving river ecosystems. He also called for strengthening decision-making processes to maintain ecological balance and improve water management systems.



Environmental Flow (E-Flow):

Environmental flow refers to the quantity, timing, and quality of water flow required to sustain fresh water ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them. It is critical for maintaining the ecological integrity of rivers and their estuaries. E-flow also ensures significant benefits for human welfare, especially in areas where water use is highly competitive and regulated.

However, in recent decades, extensive interventions in river flow such as the construction of dams and barrages, pollution, and encroachments have severely impacted the ecological balance of rivers. To address these issues, the concept of "Environmental Flow" has been introduced, emphasizing the need to maintain a minimum water flow to ensure the health of river ecosystems.

E-Flow studies consider the habitat and flow requirements of key fish species to ensure the survival of aquatic life and balanced river flow. This contributes to long-term ecological and economic benefits for society.

Stakeholder Participation & extensive Discussions during ongoing E-flow Studies

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved several studies to assess environmental flows in the Ganga basin. These include assessments by NIH Roorkee for Chambal, Son, and Damodar. IIT Roorkee has been tasked with assessing e-flows in the Ghaghara and Gomti sub-basins. IIT Kanpur has been given responsibility for assessing E flow in Kosi, Ganda, and Mahananda. Shri Patil emphasised the need for extensive discussions with all the stakeholders during these studies so as to have more balanced outcomes

Inclusive Approach to Water Management:

Union Jal Shakti Minister described this initiative as an inclusive and scientific approach to water management, marking a significant step toward the protection of Indian river ecosystems and the sustainable use of water resources.

The meeting was attended Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, along with senior officials from NMCG, Central Water Commission (CWC), experts from National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), and IIT Roorkee. The presence of key stakeholders ensured a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary discussion on the status, challenges, and way forward for effective implementation of environmental flow assessments across the Ganga basin.

Union Minister of Jal Shakti

Shri C R Patil

inaugurated the Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave to empower grassroots leadership for Viksit Bharat 2047

Sarpanch Samvaad has shown how digital platforms can unite and empower them to share solutions that matter at the grassroots:

Shri C R Patil

The conclave brought together 75 distinguished sarpanchs from across 22 states, who engaged in meaningful discussions on five thematic areas drawn from the Localised Sustainable Development Goals

Posted On: 15 SEP 2025 6:10PM by PIB Delhi

The Quality Council of India (QCI), in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised the Sarpanch Samvaad National Quality Conclave at 1QCI, World Trade Centre, New Delhi today centered around the theme 'Viksit Gram se Viksit Bharat'. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil inaugurated the conclave in the presence of senior dignitaries including Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI.



The conclave marked a historic milestone of successfully onboarding over 60,000 Sarpanchs from across India onto the Sarpanch Samvaad mobile application, creating a first-of-its-kind digital community of grassroots leaders. It brought together 75 distinguished sarpanchs from across 22 states, who engaged in meaningful discussions on five thematic areas drawn from the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) during a workshop organised on the previous day.

In his inaugural address, Shri C.R. Patil, emphasized that the Sarpanch Samvaad has shown how digital platforms can unite and empower them to share solutions that matter at the grassroots. Our next goal is to bring all 2.5 lakh Sarpanchs onto this platform, so that every village can progress together on the pillars of Swachhata and Suraksha, driving India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, Union Minister added.



Sharing his perspective, Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, highlighted the role of capacity building and said, “through e-governance and ICT tools like E-Gram Swaraj, PAI, and Sabha Saar, the Ministry is working to strengthen grassroots governance. To build truly Viksit Gram Panchayats, we must strengthen Village Water and Sanitation Committees, adopt e-governance for transparency, and embed Guntvatta in every initiative.”

Reflecting on the occasion, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, observed, “Sarpanch Samvaad is not just a

digital platform—it is a movement to strengthen village leadership. By enabling knowledge exchange and peer learning, it empowers Sarpanchs to make their villages Open Defecation Free, Swachh, and Sujal. Technology, quality assessment, and digital governance are key to achieving this.” Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI, said, “Today, we have connected over 60,000 Sarpanchs through this initiative, but our journey does not stop here. I have set a goal for my team to connect an additional 75,000 Sarpanchs by this October, and to reach 1,00,000 Sarpanchs by the birthday of our beloved late former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he added.



In addition to the collaboration between DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti pursuant to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) demonstrating shared commitment to advancing water and sanitation-led development at the grassroots level, the conclave highlighted key challenges, and best practices and way forward that were eloquently discussed during the previous-day’s workshop.

A significant outcome of the conclave was an announcement of the rollout of a 100-Day Good Governance Challenge on the Sarpanch Samvaad mobile application, from September 17, 2025, to December 25, 2025 (Good Governance Day). This challenge will mobilise Sarpanch-led campaigns across the country, reinforcing the Panchayats’ role as catalysts of national progress.

The conclave concluded with reflections and a commitment to documenting and disseminating best practices through the Sarpanch Samvaad mobile application, ensuring continuous peer learning and sustained momentum in Panchayat-led development.

About QCI

The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by the Government of India to establish and promote quality standards across all sectors of the economy. QCI operates through its constituent boards and divisions to conduct independent third-party assessments of products, services, and processes, fostering a culture of quality that touches the life of every citizen. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, serves as its nodal point.

Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath: Shramdaan conducted under the leadership of
Shri C R Patil,
Union Minister of Jal Shakti and
Shri V Somanna,
Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Kalindi Kunj, under
Swachhata Hi Seva 2025

**Nationwide Shramdaan Activities conducted with active participation
of various stakeholders**

Posted On: 25 SEP 2025 9:49PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, under the leadership of the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil and the Minister of State, Shri V Somanna, organized a large scale Shramdaan activity today 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.



The shramdaan saw active participation of officials of DDWS led by Shri Ashok K K Meena- Secretary DDWS, youth volunteers, Rural Wash Partners, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), students etc. Before initiating the Shramdaan, all participants took the Swachhata Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to keep their surroundings clean and inspire others to do the same.

This nationwide Shramdaan coincides with the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, whose philosophy of Antyodaya, continues to inspire citizen-led development. Across the country, Ministries, Departments, State Governments, Panchayats, Local Bodies etc conducted similar citizen- led shramdaan drives simultaneously, reinforcing the spirit of collective action for Swachhata.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri C. R. Patil, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, recalled the emphasis given by Mahatma Gandhi to “Swachhata” along with “Swatantra”, which continues to guide the nation. He noted that under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Swachhata Andolan has achieved new heights. Speaking on how the Yamuna is Delhi’s lifeline and plays a vital role in its development, he urged the citizens to be mindful that their efforts towards Swachhata would be much lesser if one avoided causing pollution in the first place. He requested the participants to actively contribute to the Shramdaan.

Secretary, DDWS, Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, during the Welcome Address shared with all participants that the Shramdaan was part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign, which started on 17th September and will culminate on Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October, Gandhi. He reiterated that Jan Bhagidari has been an important principle of Swachhata Andolan, hence today's shramdaan is another step towards bringing the community together, to reaffirm our commitment to Swachhata.

Approximately 2500 kilos of waste were collected during the shramdaan, helping restore the cleanliness of the Yamuna Ghat and sending a strong message of jan bhagidaari and of people's power in action.



Union Minister Shri C.R. Patil's Call for Cleanliness Rises from Kalindi Kunj: A Grand Event of Namami Gange under the aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti on the Banks of River Yamuna

In India, cleanliness is not merely a matter of health or environment;
it is the very soul of our civilization and culture:

Shri C.R. Patil

School students and youth actively participates in the Ek Din, Ek Ghanta,
Ek Saath programme under Swachhata Hi Seva' initiative

Posted On: 25 SEP 2025 4:10PM by PIB Delhi

The national capital, Delhi, today witnessed a significant occasion when a grand event **Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath** ('One Day, One Hour, Together') was organized on the banks of River Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj under the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' initiative. This ceremony not only gave momentum to public awareness on river rejuvenation but also emphasized the importance of collective participation for cleaning of Yamuna. The presence of Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri C. R. Patil and Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Shri V. Somanna further enhanced the dignity of the event.



Paying tribute on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Shri C. R. Patil recalled with reverence his life's core principles service, simplicity and dedication to the nation. He said that today, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the effort of river conservation has gone beyond being a mere administrative responsibility and has become a collective duty of society. Shri Patil described the rejuvenation of the Yamuna River as a unique confluence of our cultural faith and environmental consciousness.



He also highlighted that Mahatma Gandhi's principles of "Swatantrata" and "Swachhata" continue to guide and inspire the nation. In his address, he made it clear that rejuvenating our rivers is essential for India's bright future. Concluding his speech, he extended heartiest congratulations to all those associated with this sacred campaign, affirming that when a resolve is collective, transformation surely becomes historic. In India, cleanliness is not merely a matter of health or environment; it is the very soul of our civilization and culture. Based on this philosophy, the Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign, which has now transformed into a powerful national movement, stirring public consciousness.



The true strength of this campaign lies in its widespread participation. The active involvement of 139 District Ganga Committees and 2 municipalities has made it clear that the cleanliness of the Ganga and its tributaries is not just a government effort but a shared responsibility of the entire society. The readiness of local committees and public participation has further strengthened this mission.

The enthusiastic presence of children and youth at the program infused it with fresh energy. During the event, school children danced and sang to spread the message of river cleanliness, while various groups performed engaging street plays (nukkad natak). Various activities organized in schools and colleges not only awakened awareness of cleanliness among young minds but also made the youth true representatives of this movement. The goal of this initiative was not merely to spread the message of cleanliness to every household but also to instill it as a permanent value in future generations.



This event was not confined to formality but moved with clear and concrete goals. Each district resolved to involve 10,000 participants through rallies, cleanliness drives, awareness camps, and community initiatives. As a result, thousands of citizens came forward as volunteers, standing tall as true guardians of the Ganga's cleanliness. The integration of "Swachhata Hi Seva" with the Namami Gange program was the greatest success of this campaign. By combining efforts like cleaning Ganga ghats, sewage management, and public awareness, it was demonstrated that technical solutions can only succeed when society itself becomes part of the mission.



It is worth noting that multi-dimensional efforts are already underway to make River Yamuna in Delhi clean and life-giving again. Out of 10 major projects, 9 have already been completed, showcasing the pace and seriousness of this mission. State-of-the-art Sewage Treatment Plants at Okhla, Kondli, Rithala, and Coronation Pillar are now operating at full capacity. Beyond technical solutions, regular cleaning of riverbanks, initiatives for water recycling, and concrete steps to maintain ecological balance are also being carried out. These measures have not only helped in pollution control but have also laid the foundation for a sustainable solution towards restoring the purity and cleanliness of the Yamuna.

The active participation of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, MCD, and various institutions like YSS Foundation, Saksham Bhoomi Foundation, Amity University, Zakir Husain College, PGDAV College, IMS College, Sunbreeze School, and the Government Boys School of Srinivaspuri, among many others, further strengthened the campaign.

River conservation is being pursued through short-, mid-, and long-term plans”.

Shri C.R. Patil,
Union Minister of Jal Shakti

Minister of Jal Shakti,
Shri C.R. Patil,
inaugurated the 6th NadiUtsav at IGNCA

Posted On: 26 SEP 2025 1:20PM by PIB Delhi



The 6th edition of Nadi Utsav, organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was inaugurated by the Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil, today at IGNCA, Janpath, New Delhi. The inaugural session was also graced by Shri Gaurang Das, Spiritual Leader, ISKCON; Sadhvi Vishudhanand Bharti Thakur; Shri Rambahadur Rai, President, IGNCA; and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA.

Celebrating rivers as vital ecological lifelines and cultural reservoirs, the festival opened to an enthusiastic gathering of scholars, artists, practitioners, and students. In his inaugural address, Shri C.R. Patil asserted the significance of rivers in sustaining communities and shaping India's cultural ethos. He emphasised the need for collective responsibility in preserving rivers for future generations. He remarked, "India is a land of rivers. The world's finest river, the Ganga, flows in India. It is our duty not to pollute our rivers." He further stated that work is being carried out at three levels- short-term, mid-term, and long-term-towards river conservation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, significant efforts are being undertaken through Water Vision@2047.



Highlighting the cultural significance of rivers, he said that rivers are not merely resources but the very current of our emotions and culture. He cautioned that human intervention has caused immense damage to rivers, and their conservation is a shared responsibility. He also commended IGNCA for the continued organisation of Nadi Utsav.



On this occasion, Shri Gaurang Das said that rivers are not merely streams of water but symbols of strength, energy, and the constant progress of life. Just like the Ganga, which finds its way from Gangotri to the Bay of Bengal despite numerous obstacles, we too must maintain hope and direction in the face of life's adversities. He added that rivers are the flow of our culture and sensibility, teaching us that challenges can be transformed into opportunities through energy and hope. Expressing concern over the present condition of the Yamuna, he stressed that the conservation of rivers is our shared responsibility and commended IGNCA for the continued organisation of Nadi Utsav.



Sadhvi Vishudhanand Bharti Thakur shared her experiences with rivers, spanning from Ishanya Bharat (North East India) to southern Kanyakumari. She emphasised that people should engage in a meaningful dialogue with rivers, recognising the wealth they offer. She further highlighted that, alongside their cultural and spiritual significance, the ecological diversity of rivers must also be studied and taken seriously.



Shri Rambahadur Rai said that rivers are not merely streams of water but embody our culture, faith, and responsibility. Recalling his experience of a Yamuna journey in Delhi during the 1980s with Anupam Mishra, he noted that even at that time, 26 drains were flowing into the river, highlighting the gravity of its crisis. He expressed hope that with ongoing efforts, the Yamuna would eventually become clean. He further remarked that today, with concrete initiatives being undertaken for cleaning the river and constructing embankments, a sense of optimism is visible. Shri Rai, while referring to personalities such as Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Sunderlal Bahuguna, emphasised that society must remain

vigilant and proactive in safeguarding the uninterrupted flow of rivers. He urged that Nadi Utsav should not remain merely a celebration but evolve into a continuous reminder of our duties towards rivers.

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, while welcoming the guests, said that river culture profoundly impacts society. He noted that urban lifestyles have distanced us from our connection with rivers. As the pace of development increased and human exploitation of nature grew, our bond with the natural world weakened, transforming into a consumerist relationship. The purpose of Nadi Utsav is to inspire feelings of reverence, enthusiasm, devotion, and faith towards rivers.

The first day of the three-day festival saw the commencement of the National Seminar on "Riverscape Dynamics: Changes and Continuity", which brought together eminent scholars and experts to share perspectives on the cultural, ecological, and artistic dimensions of rivers. More than 300 research papers were received in connection with the seminar, of which 45 will be presented during the sessions. The segment is being held in collaboration with the English Department of the University of Delhi.

Running parallel to the seminar, the "My River Story" Documentary Film Festival presented its opening screenings, featuring thought-provoking films including "Gotakhors: Disappearing Diving Communities", "River Man of India", "Arth Ganga", "Yamuna's Sewage Treatment Plant", "Cauvery –River of Life" and others. These films shed light on ecological concerns, traditional practices, and the deep-rooted human connection with river systems, highlighting how rivers continue to shape lives and landscapes.

Nadi Utsav showcases a profound dialogue between tradition and contemporary practices, ensuring that communities remain connected to their riverine roots. The inaugural session concluded with enthusiastic participation from river enthusiasts and meaningful discussions, setting the stage for the sessions, demonstrations, and exhibitions over the next two days. At the end of the session, Prof. K. Anil Kumar, Head of Department, Janapada Sampada, delivered the vote of thanks. The inaugural day concluded with classical renditions on rivers by Guru Sudha Raghuraman and her team, captivating the audience.

The three-day river festival will continue until 27th September 2025, featuring cultural programmes, exhibitions, and discussions aimed at reaffirming the deep interconnections between rivers, ecology, and culture.



16th Meeting of Empowered Task Force on Ganga Rejuvenation Held under Chairmanship of The Union Minister for Jal Shakti **C.R. Paatil**

Minister Stresses Cultural, Ecological and Livelihood Importance of Ganga; Calls for Swift Action on Wetland Protection, Pollution Abatement and River Rejuvenation

Report on Geomorphic and Ecological Impacts of Sand Mining in Large Rivers Released; Focus on Strengthening Regulatory Framework for River Conservation

Posted On: 29 SEP 2025 8:00PM by PIB Delhi

Giving new impetus to the rejuvenation of River Ganga, the 16th meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) was held today under chairmanship of the Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Paatil. The Minister emphasized that the conservation of the Ganga is not just an environmental effort, but is intrinsically linked to India's cultural heritage, faith, and the lifeline of millions of people.



The meeting brought together key stakeholders from various ministries and state governments, including Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Shri Rajeev Kumar Mital, JS&FA Department of Water Resources Shri Gaurav Masaldan, Shri Anurag Srivastava (Principal Secretary Namami Gange U.P.) Shri Nalin Srivastava (Deputy Director General, NMCG), Shri Anup Kumar Srivastava (Executive Director, Technical), Shri S.P. Vashisth (Executive Director, Admin), Shri Bhaskar Dasgupta (Executive Director, Finance), Ms Nandini Ghosh (Project Director, West Bengal SPMG), Shri Animesh Parashar (Chairman of BUIDCO), Sh. Suraj Project Director (Jharkhand), Shri Prabhash Kumar (Project Director, Uttar Pradesh SMCG), along with senior officers of NMCG and participating states.



Expressing satisfaction over the achievements, the Minister appreciated the collective efforts and highlighted that nearly 80% of the issues taken up during the past year by Empowered Task Force have been successfully resolved. He further stated that these works are laying a strong foundation for Ganga rejuvenation, with efforts across diverse fields creating a holistic framework for the Ganga and its tributaries.

Special focus was laid on the status of wetlands in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where 282 and 387 wetlands were assessed respectively, with 40 in Uttar Pradesh and 19 in Bihar identified as high priority. The Minister urged both states to expedite notifications and provide legal protection to these 59 wetlands, emphasizing that wetlands are the backbone of flood control, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity conservation, and their protection is vital for ecological balance and local livelihoods.



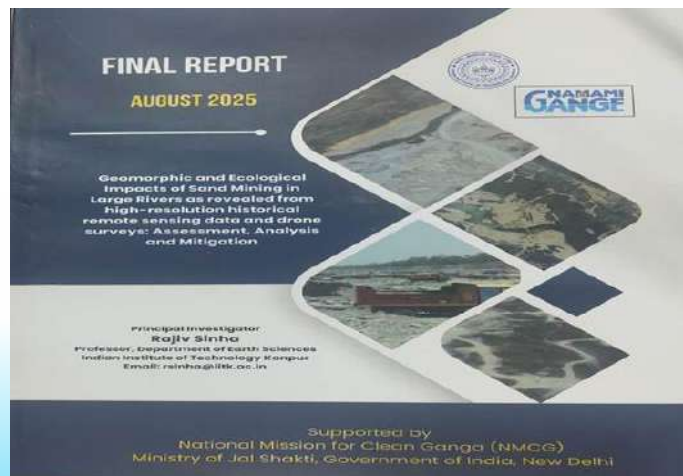
Reviewing the status of pollution abatement in Uttar Pradesh, it was informed that while larger cities have developed a sewage treatment capacity of 4,651 MLD with an additional 1,708 MLD under construction, the focus should be increased on smaller urban bodies. The Minister directed the state government to prioritize City Sanitation Action Plans under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and prepare DPRs at the earliest for project approvals.

Hon'ble Minister emphasized focus on small river rejuvenation and reviewed the "Namami Niranjana Campaign." The Niranjana (Falgu) River, once revered as a sacred river associated with Lord Buddha's enlightenment and religious rituals, has now dried up. For its rejuvenation, NMCG and local institutions are working on measures such as community awareness, afforestation, rainwater conservation, and sustainable farming. The Minister directed the Bihar government to formally support this campaign, stating, "Rejuvenation of the Niranjana is not just the revival of a river, but a revival of our cultural heritage."



The meeting also focused on strengthening of regulatory framework and discussed flood plain demarcation, with the Minister urging all Ganga basin states to implement the Central Water Commission's technical guidelines, stressing that such regulation is essential to regulate activities in sensitive areas. In line with this, the Minister also highlighted the functioning of the dedicated Cell constituted within NMCG on 7th December 2023 to grant prior permission for specific activities under Sections 6 and 42 of the 2016 Authorities Notification. The Cell, comprising officers from CPCB, CWC, NMCG, the concerned State Mission for Clean Ganga, and a legal expert, reviews project proposals ensuring adequate due diligence and focus on river sensitive development.

The Hon'ble Minister also reviewed and released the project report on "Geomorphic and Ecological Impacts of Sand Mining in Large Rivers" prepared by IIT Kanpur under the guidance of Prof. Rajiv Sinha. Supported by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, this report provides an in-depth assessment, analysis, and mitigation



strategies regarding sand mining using high-resolution remote sensing data and drone surveys. It marks an important step towards understanding and addressing the ecological challenges posed by sand mining in India's rivers and would help in bringing out a policy framework on regulating sand mining.

Concluding the meeting, the Minister called upon all states and departments for swift and coordinated action. He said, "The Ganga is not just a river. It is our culture, our faith, and our lifeline. We must achieve the goal of its rejuvenation in a time-bound manner. All concerned departments and states must work together to fulfill the resolve of making the Ganga 'Aviral and Nirmal'."

**Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti,
Shri V Somanna**
interacted with over 150 Sarpanches from across India today

Over 150 Sarpanches have been selected for their exceptional contribution to building the nation and securing India's future by conserving water and making Swachh Sujal Gaon a reality led from the grassroots

Ministry of Jal Shakti hosts sarpanches for a special interaction, recognising their role in building healthier, self-reliant villages

Posted On: 14 AUG 2025 9:53PM by PIB Delhi

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 79th Independence Day, Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna interacted with over 150 Sarpanches from across the country in Delhi today. These Sarpanches have been selected for their exceptional contribution towards building the nation and securing India's future by conserving water and building Swachh Sujal Gaon as a reality led from the grassroots, serving as shining examples of how local leadership can bring about transformative change. Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary Department of Water Resources and River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Shri Ashok K K Meena, Secretary Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and other senior officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were also present at the event.



Interacting with sarpanches, the Union Minister of state for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna underscored that "Our sarpanches and VWSC members are the real change makers who ensure that government programmes translate into visible improvements in people's lives. Their leadership and dedication inspire us to work harder towards the goal of Swachh Sujal Gaon which will be the cornerstone for a Viksit and Jal Samridh Bharat. As we celebrate Independence Day, it is only fitting that we honour those who are securing our villages' future with clean water, sanitation, and sustainable practices." Secretary DoWR, Smt. Debashree Mukherjee said, Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our sarpanches and pradhans under Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Catch the Rain, over-exploited groundwater blocks have declined significantly - from around 17% in 2017 to just about 11% in 2024. This marks a major stride toward water security. Our sarpanches are true water ambassadors and warriors, steering our communities toward a resilient future despite the mounting challenges of climate change. Together, by using water with awareness and care, we can safeguard this precious resource for generations to come."

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Ashok KK Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said, "You (Sarpanches) are the greatest strength of the Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission. Strong village leadership has shown that with intent and effort, every home can have clean water, hygienic toilets, and proper waste



management. Our next goal is Swachh Sujal Gaon with tap water in every home, solid and liquid waste managed well, and ODF Plus Model and Har Ghar Jal certification achieved. Accurate and timely data from you will ensure better monitoring and improvement. You are role models for the nation, making 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' a reality."

Selected Sarpanches shared their inspirational grassroots level innovations and success stories. The interaction session with Sarpanches from Gujarat (Shashikant Patel), Madhya Pradesh (Lakshita Dagar) Kerala (Sheeba), Uttar Pradesh (Sunita Yadav),

Chhattisgarh (Sh. Nagendra Bhagat), and Andhra Pradesh (Sampurna) was very vibrant and engaging, showcasing how local leadership is shaping the success of initiatives across the country.

Screenings of short films on flagship initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Namami Gange (NMCG), Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari (JSJB), and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) were also organised.

On the occasion, booklets featuring the DDWS's Voice of Change – Sarpanches at the Forefront and NWM's (Voices from Field) "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain – 2025" were released. Organized on the eve of Independence Day, this event is more than a celebration. It is a salute to India's new-age nation builders. Just as the freedom fighters 79 years ago secured India's political sovereignty, today's Sarpanches are ensuring water sovereignty, freedom from scarcity, dependence, and environmental degradation. Their work embodies the vision of Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, which calls for self-reliance, sustainability, innovation, and people's participation.

These distinguished grassroots leaders have been at the forefront of implementing the Government's flagship water and sanitation programmes:

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** ensuring safe and adequate drinking water for every rural household through functional tap connections.
- **Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)** promoting water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and aquifer recharge to secure local water sources.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** achieving and sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages and progressing towards ODF Plus Model Villages.
- **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB)** mobilizing communities for participatory water governance and reviving traditional water bodies.



Through their leadership, these Sarpanches are reviving rivers and ponds, conserving every drop of rain, improving rural health and hygiene, and inspiring communities to take ownership of their resources. They are not only conserving water, but they are also safeguarding India's ecological heritage and securing a prosperous, resilient, and self-reliant future for generations to come.

Nation geared up for Swachhata Hi Seva 2025, Launching 17 September

Ek Din Ek Ghanta Ek Saath: Nationwide voluntary shramdaan on 25 September 2025

Posted On: 15 SEP 2025 8:28PM by PIB Delhi

With energy building across the nation, the stage is set for the 9th edition of Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission. Starting on 17th September and culminating on 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti, the 15-day campaign will mobilize millions across the nation in a collective call to action for high-impact swachhata drives. Launched jointly by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) bring together citizens, communities, and institutions to drive visible cleanliness on the ground, with focus on Cleanliness Target Units – dark, dirty and neglected spots.

Addressing the event, The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil said that the campaign, now in its eighth year, reflects Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of spreading mass awareness on cleanliness. He noted that more than 12 crore toilets have been constructed across the country, leading to a sharp decline in open defecation and a major improvement in the safety and dignity of women. Citing a WHO report, he added that nearly 3 lakh lives of children under the age of five have been saved due to the reduction in open defecation-related diseases.



Shri Patil recalled that when the mission began, only 37 percent of households had toilets, whereas today over 12 crore families have access to them. The Minister said SHS 2025 will be observed during a period marked by important dates including the Prime Minister's birthday on 17th September, the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on 25th September, and the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on 2nd October. He added that the Swachhata Utsav will continue till Diwali to encourage wider public participation.



The Union Minister announced a 8–10 Crore SafaiMitra Suraksha Fund for Surat including Navsari for welfare including educational support and interest-free loans for their families. Shri Patil also emphasized the ministry's efforts towards creating plastic-free villages and curbing the use of single-use plastic, announcing that on 25th September, a one-hour nationwide cleanliness drive will be undertaken to mark Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary.



Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, highlighted on the focus on Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) under SHS 2025, like last year. In 2024, over 8 lakh such CTUs were transformed and made usable public spaces. He said, "Identification, transformation and beautification of CTUs will happen on a fast-track-mode and beyond the campaign period for visible cleanliness on ground. Cities are identifying CTUs - dark spots, neglected and hard-to-reach areas, and places with excessive waste such as garbage dumps, railway stations, rivers, degraded lands, back lanes, and heavily littered dirty spots that need timely cleaning. These areas directly impact visible cleanliness, as cleanliness and beauty go hand in hand.



Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Shri Ashok KK Meena, gave the SHS 2025 outline, where he shared that SHS 2025 is anchored around the theme of 'Swachhotsav', that will champion the spirit of cleanliness in harmony with the festive celebrations across the country. The campaign aims to harness the vibrant energy of the season, blending culture, community participation, and festive fervour, to set new benchmarks for eco-friendly and zero-waste celebrations.

As part of the preparatory meetings, a meeting between Hon'ble Ministers, MoHUA and DDWS was conducted on 3 Sept., 2025 to discuss SHS, followed by a preparatory

meeting on 9th Sept., 2025 with all States / UTs chaired by Union Ministers of DDWS and MoHUA, meeting of Committee of Secretaries was chaired by Cabinet Secretary on 10 Sept. The first Meeting of Coordination Committees across all levels (State, District, local bodies, Ministries etc.) was conducted on 12th of September, followed by a meeting with all Central Ministry Nodal Officers and field units, chaired by Secretary, DDWS.

Shri V.L. Kantha Rao

assumed charge as Secretary, Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, MoJS, GOI, succeeding
Smt. Debashree Mukherjee.



Shri V.L. Kantha Rao took charge as Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, vide the order cited by the Government of India, dated 29th August 2025. He was welcomed by Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, the outgoing Secretary, along with senior officers of the Department.

A 1992-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, has served in various capacities in both the State and Central Governments. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Secretary in the Ministry of Mines, where he conscientiously played a pivotal role in advancing the government's initiatives.

Under his leadership, the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation will continue to strengthen its commitment towards sustainable water management, rejuvenation of rivers, and implementation of national water-related missions.



The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti launched 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2025' campaign across its organisations and field offices with the theme 'Swachhotsav' to support cleanliness and public participation

Swachhata Pledge administered to officials and staff marking the commencement of Swachhata Hi Seva 2025

The Department to organise citizen-centric cleanliness drive at Kalindi Kunj under the banner 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath' on 25th September, 2025 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Posted On: 19 SEP 2025 2:12PM by PIB Delhi

The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation rolled out the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025 campaign with this year's theme 'Swachhotsav' across its various organisations and field offices. The fortnight-long campaign, being observed from 17th September to 2nd October, 2025, is aligned with the Government's vision of a "Swachh Bharat" and seeks to reinforce the importance of cleanliness,

hygiene, and public participation. The campaign commenced with the administration of the Swachhata Pledge in multiple offices and institutes under the Department, including the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Central Soil & Materials Research Station (CSMRS), and various basin organisations such as CWMA, NCA, KRMB, PPA, Tungabhadra Board, UYRB, GFCC, and BRB.



Highlights of the inaugural day included:

Shri V.L. Kantha Rao Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR administered Swachhata Pledge to officials and staff in the Secretariat Proper.

- Shramdaan activities undertaken by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), National Water Mission (NWM), and other offices, symbolising collective responsibility towards cleanliness.
- Active participation by officials and students in Tezpur, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Indore, Patna, Jhansi, and New Delhi.
- At the National Water Mission headquarters, the event was chaired by the Joint Secretary, NWM, where around 25 officials enthusiastically took the Swachhata Pledge and participated in Shramdaan activities.
- The campaign aims to inspire every official and citizen to contribute actively towards maintaining clean surroundings, promoting hygiene, and reinforcing the collective resolve for a sustainable and healthy environment.

The Department of Water Resources will organize citizen centric led cleanliness drive at Kalindi Kunj under the banner 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Sath' on 25th September, 2025 from 08.00 A.M. to 09.00 AM.



Union Minister
Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
and Jal Shakti Minister
Shri Chandrakant Raghunath Patil
launched National Initiative on Water Security

“Under MGNREGA, a fixed portion of funds will now be mandatorily spent on water conservation works” –

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

“In ‘over-exploited’ and ‘critical’ rural blocks, 65% of MGNREGA funds will be allocated for water-related works” –

Shri Chouhan

“In ‘semi-critical’ rural blocks, 40% of MGNREGA funds must be spent on water conservation” –

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

At least 30% of funds will be used for water-related activities even in blocks without water scarcity

“Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi
has always given priority to water conservation; it is a subject that is close to his heart” –

Shri Chouhan

“Better water conservation measures can raise groundwater levels and rejuvenate rivers” –

Shri Chouhan

“Water is life. If there is water, there is a tomorrow and a today. Without water, nothing is possible” –

Shri Chouhan

“The National Water Security Initiative will benefit future generations, livestock, wildlife, environment, and agriculture” –

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Posted On: 25 SEP 2025 6:59PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Rural Development, and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Chandrakant Raghunath Patil today jointly launched the 'National Initiative on Water Security' at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Kamlesh Paswan, Rural Development Secretary Shri Shailesh Singh, and senior officials from both ministries were present at the occasion, while representatives from rural blocks and district magistrates across the country participated virtually.



Speaking at the launch, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Rural Development has made water security a national priority under MGNREGA. Amendments have been made in the Schedule of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Act, 2005, to give precedence to water-related works in water-stressed rural blocks. This historic step ensures that a minimum expenditure on water conservation and harvesting activities will now be mandatory in rural blocks.



Addressing the media later, the Union Minister said that groundwater levels are continuously depleting and water has become one of the biggest global challenges. He noted that Prime Minister Modi has been committed to water conservation since his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and has led numerous initiatives to underline its importance. The Prime Minister has given the nation direction through campaigns like 'Catch the Rain', rainwater harvesting, and the construction of 'Amrit Sarovars'.



Reiterating the importance of water, Shri Chouhan said: "Water is life. If there is water, there is a tomorrow and a today. Without water, nothing is possible." He added that the Prime Minister had instructed in a meeting of the Council of Ministers that a fixed portion of MGNREGA funds must be earmarked for water conservation. Following this directive, it has now been mandated that:

- In 'over-exploited' blocks, 65% of MGNREGA funds will be used for water-related works.
- In 'semi-critical' blocks, 40% of MGNREGA funds will be spent on water conservation.
- Even in blocks without water scarcity, at least 30% of funds will go towards water-related works.

Shri Chouhan said that nationwide, MGNREGA resources will now be channelled with priority into water conservation, boosting groundwater recharge and accelerating conservation drives. This policy decision ensures that resources are directed to the areas of greatest need, shifting the approach from reactive to preventive and long-term water management.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri C.R. Patil also highlighted the importance of the initiative, saying: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given water conservation the highest priority. Under his visionary leadership, the Council of Ministers has taken a very important and historic decision. As per the Prime Minister's guidance, Rural Development Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has now allocated, from the ₹88,000 crore MGNREGA budget, 65% for 'dark zone' districts, 40% for 'semi-critical' districts, and 30% for other districts towards rainwater harvesting. This decision will prove vital for water security and rural development. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Rural Development Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for this historic step."

Background

This policy change builds on significant achievements in rural development and water conservation under MGNREGA over the past 11 years (since 2014). During this period, MGNREGA has become the world's largest social welfare programme, with an expenditure of about ₹8.4 lakh crore and the generation of over 3,000 crore person-days of employment. Notably, women's participation has risen from 48% in 2014 to 58% in 2025.

Under the scheme, more than 1.25 crore water conservation assets such as farm ponds, check dams, and community tanks have been created. These efforts have yielded tangible results, reducing the number of water-stressed rural blocks. In addition, under 'Mission Amrit Sarovar', more than 68,000 reservoirs have been constructed or rejuvenated in the first phase alone.

Brahmaputra Board 2025



PADDY CUM FISHERY

The Brahmaputra Board, in collaboration with the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), has initiated a pilot project focused on good water management practices in Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh. This initiative aims to integrate the best of traditional community knowledge with modern technology to ensure water and livelihood security while promoting sustainable living. Building upon the unique paddy-cum-fish cultivation system of the Apatani tribe, the project seeks to refine and replicate these time-tested, environmentally sustainable methods. The project also aims to replicate these practices in the Pakke Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh. A fish pond was also constructed at Yachuli, Arunachal Pradesh, for setting up a composite fishing farm, and villagers were taught fish breeding methods for fishery.

Project Development Objective & Description

The primary objective of this project is the participatory backstopping of traditional water management practices in Ziro Valley, with a view to limited refinement and enhancement of water productivity. The project is structured with two key components. The first component involves the participatory backstopping of traditional water management practices prevalent in Ziro Valley. The second component focuses on the participatory testing of selected best practices through a pilot study in two locations in Arunachal Pradesh. This project is an integral part of the Brahmaputra Board's anti-erosion efforts and aims to contribute to national objectives like the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan".

Project Components

Component 1, "Participatory backstopping of traditional water management practices of Ziro valley," emphasizes



BASIC LEARNING WORKSHOP AT ZIRO



PIGGERY SHED AT ZIRO

education and capacity building for stakeholders. This includes activities like rapid rural appraisal, basic learning workshops, and a participatory study of the existing system to improve water productivity. Component 2, "Participatory testing of best practices through pilot study," will replicate these effective practices. Minor interventions like establishing integrated farming units for rice, fish, vegetables, and piggery are part of this component. It also includes design workshops, participatory evaluations, and lesson-learning workshops. Additionally, Fish ponds at high altitude were also constructed for rearing of fish.

Implementation & Sustainability

The project's implementation is a collaborative effort. NERIWALM implemented Component 1 with support from the local community, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ziro, and local NGOs. Component 2 was carried out by the local community with technical assistance from trained professionals by Brahmaputra Board.

Technical Aspects & Ziro Valley

Ziro Valley, home to the Apatani tribe, is renowned for its unique, highly evolved traditional water management system. The Apatanis have considerable expertise in integrating pisciculture with wet rice cultivation, a practice that boosts the local economy. The technical aspects of the project involve designing and laying out model units for integrated rice-fish-vegetable farming, composite fish farming, and piggery. These models are intended to enhance the existing systems, introducing minor but impactful interventions such as improved irrigation and drainage. The project leverages this traditional knowledge, which includes the recycling of byproducts within the farming system, to create a model that is both profitable and environmentally sound. Under the project, the paddy-cum-fishery was also replicated at Pakke Kessang where the villagers were given both technical and knowledge support. The lesson learnt from the project was also shared with the people in the district under the presence of officials of District Administration, and state government departments.



DRAINAGE FOR FLOWING PIG WASTE TO FIELD AT ZIRO



TRAINING FOR VILLAGERS FOR INTEGRATED FARMING AT PAKKE KESSANG



FISH POND AT YACHULI, ARUNACHAL PRADESH



LESSON LEARNING WORKSHOP

Brahmaputra Board Strengthens Flood Management and Administrative Skills Through Workshops

Brahmaputra Board, under the leadership of Chairman Dr. Ranbir Singh, IAS (Retd.), has demonstrated its commitment to water resource management and administrative efficiency through two recent workshops. The North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), a component of the Brahmaputra Board, conducted both programs in collaboration with the National Water Academy (NWA), Pune.

Workshop on Flood Protection & Anti-Erosion

From July 22nd to 26th, 2025, NEHARI hosted a five-day training workshop on "DPR Preparation for Flood Protection & Anti-Erosion (Module-I)". This program focused on preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) for projects related to flood protection and anti-erosion. The workshop's curriculum covered a variety

of subjects, including:

- Guidelines for DPR preparation for flood protection and management.
- Survey and investigation of flood and erosion management schemes.
- Cost estimation for flood management works.
- Design of flood embankments, bank revetments, spurs, and RCC porcupine structures.
- An introduction to the BRAHMA Model and GIS fundamentals.

The sessions were led by experts from various organizations, including GFCC Lucknow, CWC Guwahati, NIH Guwahati, IIT Guwahati, and NWA, Pune. A total of 29 participants from the Brahmaputra Board and Water Resources Departments of several North Eastern states, including Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh, attended the training.

Workshop on e-Procurement and Government e-Marketplace

A second five-day workshop, titled "e-Procurement and Government eMarketplace," was conducted from August 19th to 23rd, 2025. Aligned with the Vigilance Awareness Campaign, this training aimed to improve transparency and efficiency in government procurement systems. Key topics included:

- The end-to-end procurement process on the GeM portal, including direct purchases and bidding procedures.
- Contract and tender management, bid evaluation, and award of work via GeM and CPP portals.
- Bill processing through the GeM and PFMS portals.
- Relevant rules, procedures, and guidelines from GFR, 2017.

Resource persons from CWC, NEHARI, the Income Tax Department of Guwahati, and NWA, Pune, led the sessions. Twenty-two participants from the Brahmaputra Board were awarded certificates upon the successful completion of the program.

Both workshops also included a yoga session led by Yoga Instructor Mrs. Gitima Deka, which saw enthusiastic participation from both faculty and trainees. These training initiatives highlight the Brahmaputra Board's ongoing efforts to enhance the technical capabilities and administrative practices of its personnel and those of other regional water resource departments.



Brahmaputra Board Reinforces Commitment with Comprehensive "Karmayogi" Training Workshop



In a testament to its serious commitment to enhancing public service, the North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), under the Brahmaputra Board, organized a series of mandatory one-day training workshops. The initiative, part of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Programme, demonstrated the Board's dedication to professional development and instilling a sense of "Seva Bhaav," or public service.

The training was a significant undertaking, showcasing a remarkable commitment to inclusivity by involving nearly 200 employees from all levels of the organization. The participation was broad and diverse, ranging from dedicated staff such as drivers, Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), Upper Division Clerks and Lower Division Clerks (LDC) to a full spectrum of technical and administrative officers. This included engineers from the Junior Engineer to Chief Engineer levels—specifically Assistant Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Executive Engineers, and Superintending Engineers, including the Chief Engineer. Furthermore, key financial and administrative personnel such as the Deputy Financial Adviser, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, Senior Accountant, and Divisional Accountants also took part. The presence of top officials like Brahmaputra Board Chairman Dr. Ranbir Singh and General Manager Er. Abhay Kumar was particularly impactful, as it underscored the belief that a sense of "Seva Bhaav" is a core principle to be embraced at every level, from the newest hire to the highest leadership. This broad participation powerfully demonstrates the Board's conviction that every employee plays a crucial role in its mission.



A Phased and Inclusive Approach:

To accommodate the entire workforce, the training was conducted in six different batches. The first workshop was held on July 15, 2025, with subsequent sessions on August 12, 21, 25, and 29. A key highlight of the program was the fifth batch, which took place on August 26 at the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) in Tezpur. This strategic move ensured that employees stationed in far areas of Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar and Roing) and Assam (Majuli, Jorhat, and Lakhimpur) could also benefit from the training without having to travel to the Brahmaputra Board's Headquarters in Guwahati, where the other five batches were conducted. This logistical planning further illustrates the Board's serious commitment to inclusivity. The training was delivered digitally through the iGOT Karmayogi mobile app, embracing a modern, accessible learning platform.

Expert Facilitation:

The program's success was driven by a team of dedicated facilitators. The sessions were led by Dr. Ranjit Deka, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Brahmaputra Board, Sumit Purkayastha, Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Dr. Prianka Paul, Assistant Professor (WRE), Dr. Luna Moni Das, Assistant Professor (S.Sc), and Dr. Sagarika Patowary from the NERIWALM. Their collective expertise ensured a comprehensive and impactful training experience, reinforcing the Board's mission of dedicated and professional public service.



Central Ground Water Board 2025

Activities undertaken by CGWB Officers during July & August, 2025



माननीय संसदीय राजभाषा समिति द्वारा केंद्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड पूर्वी क्षेत्र, कोलकाता एवं प्रभागीय कार्यालय कोलकाता के निरीक्षण के दौरान राजभाषा प्रदर्शनी का भी अवलोकन किया गया प्रदर्शनी के दौरान श्री पी के त्रिपाठी, सदस्य केंद्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड भी उपस्थित थे सदस्य महोदय ने माननीय संसद सदस्यों को केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड की गतिविधियों के संबंध में विस्तार से बताया



The 79th Independence Day was celebrated with great joy at CGWB, CHQ, Faridabad. Dr. S. K. Ambast, Chairman, CGWB hoisted the national flag and addressed the officers and staff present.



CGWB and SAC-ISRO signed an MoU on 10th July 2025 to collaborate on groundwater assessment, monitoring, and management using satellite technologies. The partnership aims to enhance aquifer mapping, impact assessment, and capacity building.



Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA), an NGO working on sustainable livelihoods in the North Eastern Region, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake a collaborative study on the identification and rejuvenation of vulnerable springs in Arunachal Pradesh.



An MoU was signed between CGWB, SWR, Bengaluru, and DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar, Panaji, Goa, to facilitate scientist–student exchanges in data, technical expertise, and capacity building. The collaboration aims to enhance learning among students of Geology and allied Earth Science departments, foster innovation, and promote research in the groundwater domain.



Dr. Prabir K. Nayak, Regional Director, NCCR, Raipur, visited the PIB (Package-3 EW/OW) site in Surajpur district, Chhattisgarh. A high-yielding well with a discharge of 9.5 lps was successfully developed within the target depth of 200 meters.



The piezometer, built under Package 3D in Chonglikhapri Gram Panchayat (Panchayat Bhawan), Block Berla, Bemetara District, Chhattisgarh, was being used by villagers for drinking water with a lowered pump. Following notification to the District Collector, the electric pump at the site has been successfully removed.



Shri Rajeev Ranjan Shukla, RD, MER, Patna, along with Shri Pankaj Kumar, Sc-D conducted an inspection of piezometers constructed under PIB (Package VI) at Raxaul in East Champaran dist, Mushahari in Muzaffarpur dist, and Bhagwanpur and Barauni in Begusarai dist, as well as EW and OW constructed under PIB (Package I) at Sidhaw in West Champaran dist.



This Independence Day, Central Ground Water Board, CHQ celebrated the spirit of freedom and environmental stewardship through a successful plantation drive in the office premises.

Webinar / Meetings/ training attended by CGWB officers during July & August 2025



CGWB presented the outcomes of the special studies carried out under MoU between CGWB & FMDA, on sustainable groundwater management in Faridabad City before the Additional Secretary (GW, Admin & IC), DoWR, MoJS, on 22.08.2025. Sh. P. K. Tripathi, Member (NW), CGWB, shared the report of the study with the Additional Secretary.



Shri Subodh Yadav, IAS, Additional Secretary, chaired a review meeting with officers of CGWB, Southern Region, Hyderabad. The meeting was also attended by Shri K. Laxma, Director, Ground Water Department, Telangana, along with officials from the State Ground Water Department of Andhra Pradesh.





Shri N. Varadaraj, Member (HQ), conducted a review of the progress of Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2025-26 during his visit to the CGWB, SECR and Divisional Office IV, Chennai. He was greeted and welcomed by Shri M. Sivakumar, RD, and Shri Mohan Rao, EE.



A Special Study Report on Augmentation of Ground Water Supply in the Yamuna Floodplain, prepared under the MoU between CGWB and Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA), was handed over by Shri S. P. K. Tripathi, Member, CGWB to Sh. Shyamal Misra IAS, CEO, FMDA.



A meeting was convened at the Goa Secretariat with Shri S. S. Gill, IAS, Secretary, WR, Gov. of Goa, to discuss and review the ongoing and upcoming activities of CGWB in the state under the NAQUIM 2.0 study. During the meeting, Ground Water Resource Assessment (GWRA) 2024 report for Goa was released by the Secretary, along with Shri G. Krishnamurthy, Regional Director, SWR, Bengaluru.



Regional Director, CGWB, MER, Patna, attended a meeting in the conference hall of BIADA with the Executive Director, Bihar Industrial Development Authority, to discuss groundwater availability, aquifer disposition, and other groundwater-related issues in Bihar for the planning and development of new industrial areas.



राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय भूमि जल प्रशिक्षण एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान, नवा रायपुर के सेमिनार कक्ष में प्रथम तिमाही हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया प्रस्तुत कार्यक्रम में क्षेत्रीय निदेशक श्री निदिश वर्मा डा. रंजन कुमार रे, समस्त अधिकारी और कर्मचारी एवं युवा पेशेवरों ने सक्रिय रूप में भागीदारी की



A team from CGWB, CR, Nagpur, presented the Inception Report for the NAQUIM 2.0 Study pertaining to the Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation and Tuppa-MIDC areas to Shri Rahul Kardile, District Collector and Magistrate, Nanded.



A three-day Tier-II training program is being conducted by CGWB, SR, Hyderabad at Department of Geosciences, Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, under the guidance and supervision of Shri N. Jyothi Kumar, Regional Director, CGWB

Activities undertaken by CGWB Officers during September, 2025



Sh. V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, along with Sh. Subodh Yadav, Add. Secretary, visited Central Ground Water Board, CHQ, Faridabad. During the visit, the Secretary reviewed the Board's activities, engaged in discussions with senior officers, and provided key suggestions.



During the visit of Sh. V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, to CGWB, two reports were released namely Sustainable Springshed Management in Dhalai District of Tripura and Heliborne Survey Deliverables for Groundwater Exploration and Management at the Village Level in Rajkot Block of Rajkot District, Gujarat.



Shri Subodh Yadav, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, visited the Central Ground Water Board, Southern Region, Hyderabad. During his visit, he reviewed the performance of retrofitted drilling rigs, as well as the status of groundwater monitoring and groundwater quality in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



Chairman, CGWB, inaugurated SWACHHOTASAV – Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS), observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, at CGWB, CHQ, Faridabad. The event began with a pledge ceremony, followed by one hour of shramdaan by all officers and officials within the office premises



हिन्दी पखवाड़े के अवसर पर केंद्रीय भूजल बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष डॉ सुनील कुमार अंबष्ट जी द्वारा बोर्ड की हिंदी पत्रिका 'जल चेतना' का अवमोचन किया गया। भूजल चेतना पत्रिका जल संसाधनों के संरक्षण एवं भूजल से संबंधित सामान्य जानकारी तथा क्षेत्रीय स्तर पर किए गए कार्यों का विश्लेषण प्रस्तुत करती है। साथ ही इसमें जल संरक्षण में समाज की भागीदारी का भी विस्तृत उल्लेख किया गया है।



CGWB officials joined hands to clean the banks of River Yamuna during a cleanliness drive on 25 Sept at Kalindi Kunj, Yamuna Barrage, graced by Hon'ble Jal Shakti Minister Shri C.R. Patil Ji. Under the motto #EkGhantaEkDinEkSaath, the drive spread the message of environmental conservation & a cleaner, healthier Yamuna.



केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड, मध्य-पूर्वी क्षेत्र, पटना में दिनांक 26.09.2025 को क्षेत्रीय निदेशक श्री राजीव रंजन शुक्ला की अध्यक्षता में एक दिवसीय राजभाषा हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला में केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड सहित विभिन्न केन्द्रीय कार्यालयों के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों ने सहभागिता की।

Webinar / Meetings/ training attended by CGWB officers during September 2025



Sh. V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR, along with Sh. Subodh Yadav, Add. Secretary, visited Central Ground Water Board, CHQ, Faridabad. During the visit, the Secretary reviewed the Board's activities, engaged in discussions with senior officers, and provided key suggestions.



The final SLC meeting on GWRA of Tripura 2025 was convened in the Conference Hall of Secretariat Complex Agartala under the chairmanship of Sri Kiran Gitte, IAS, Secretary, PWD (WR), Tripura. The PSLC has approved the GWRA 2025 of Tripura.



Dr. Umesh S. Balpande, Regional Director, CR, Nagpur, welcomed Dr. P. K. Naik, Director, NPMU, PIB, during his visit to the Central Region, Nagpur, to review the progress of PIB activities in Maharashtra. A meeting was conducted to assess the progress of activities, address related issues, and review the safety of installed DWLRs.



A four-week training programme (1st–26th September 2025) on 'Water Well Construction: Techniques and Equipment' (Level 1) was organized by RGNGWTRI. Seventeen drilling crew members (ADCMs and TODs) from various CGWB divisions successfully completed the training and were awarded certificates.



Central Ground Water Board, WCR, Ahmedabad, organized an awareness programme and interactive session at Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), Sanhati Building, Sarsana, Surat, Gujarat, on the theme 'CGWA Guidelines and Bhuneer Portal'

4. First meeting of Flood crisis Management Team

श्री द. सो. चासकर, मुख्य अभियंता, प्रबोधन मध्य संगठन, केन्द्रीय जल आयोग, नागपुर कि अध्यक्षता में IMD Hyderabad, WRD/Irrigation Project Govt. of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, RMC Nagpur and Various Dam Authorities के साथ आज दिनांक 29-05-2025 को Flood crisis Management Team कि पहली बैठक सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुई।



5. संसदीय राजभाषा समिति की दूसरी उपसमिति की निरीक्षण बैठक

दिनांक 29.05.2025 को माननीय श्री उज्ज्वल रमण सिंह की अध्यक्षता में संसदीय राजभाषा समिति की दूसरी उपसमिति ने शिलोंग में मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, बराक एवं अन्य बेसिन संगठन, केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के साथ निरीक्षण बैठक की। इस दौरान समिति ने मंत्रालय एवम् विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की उपस्थिति में कार्यालय द्वारा आयोजित प्रदर्शनी एवं कार्यालय में हो रहे राजभाषा हिंदी के कार्यों का अवलोकन कर इसकी प्रशंसा एवं प्रशस्ति पत्र प्रदान किया। इस अवसर पर मंत्रालय की ओर से श्री शरद चंद्र, आयुक्त, श्री विजय सिंह मीणा, निदेशक राजभाषा, मुख्यालय की ओर से श्री भूपिंदर सिंह, मुख्य अभियंता, मानव संसाधन प्रबंधन, श्री आनंद चंद्र मल्लिक, निदेशक, स्थापना - III सह राजभाषा, एवं मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय शिलोंग से श्री रीडिंग शिमरे, मुख्य अभियंता, श्री एम् डब्लू पवनीकर, अधीक्षण अभियंता (स) तथा अन्य अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।



Central Water Commission 2025

PUNPUN RIVER

The Punpun river is an important river bank tributary of the Ganga river in lower reaches. The Punpun river originates from the Chottanagpur hills of Palamau district at an elevation of 300 m in Bihar. The river mostly flows in a northeast direction and finally joins the Ganga river at Fatuha, about 25 km downstream of Patna. The river is 200 km long and is mostly rainfed and carries little discharge during non-monsoon period. It meets a number of tributaries namely the Butane, the Madar and the Morhar while flowing through the Chottanagpur plateau. The Punpun often causes heavy flood damages on the eastern side of Patna city.

पुनपुन नदी

पुनपुन नदी गंगा नदी के निचले हिस्से की एक महत्वपूर्ण सहायक नदी है। पुनपुन नदी बिहार में पलामू जिले के छोटानागपुर पहाड़ियों से 300 मीटर की ऊँचाई पर निकलती है। नदी ज्यादातर उत्तर-पूर्व दिशा में बहती है और अंत में पटना से लगभग 25 किलोमीटर नीचे फतुहा में गंगा नदी में मिल जाती है। यह नदी 200 किलोमीटर लंबी है और ज्यादातर वर्षा पर निर्भर है और गैर-मानसून अवधि के दौरान इसमें बहुत कम पानी बहता है। छोटानागपुर पठार से बहते हुए यह बटाने, मदार और मोरहर जैसी कई सहायक नदियों से मिलती है। पुनपुन अक्सर पटना शहर के पूर्वी हिस्से में भारी बाढ़ का कारण बनती है।

<https://indiawris.gov.in/downloads/Ganga%20Basin.pdf>



PUNPUN RIVER

KISHAN GANGA DAM

किशनगंगा बांध

Description:

Name of river basin: Indus basin upto Border

Name of river: Mod Nadi

Dam type: Rockfill Embankment

Nearest City: Bandipore, Jammu & Kashmir

Height above Lowest Foundation Level: 37 m

Dam length: 146 m

Gross Storage Capacity: 18.350 MCM

Effective Storage Capacity: 7.550 MCM

Designed Spillway Capacity: 2000 m³/sec

Reservoir Area: 2100.000 km²

विवरण

नदी बेसिन का नाम: सिंधु बेसिन सीमा तक

नदी का नाम: मोड नदी

बांध का प्रकार: रॉकफिल तटबंध

निकटतम शहर: बांदीपुर, जम्मू और कश्मीर

निम्नतम नींव स्तर से ऊँचाई: 37 मीटर

बांध की लंबाई: 146 मीटर

सकल भंडारण क्षमता: 18.350 MCM

प्रभावी भंडारण क्षमता: 7.550 MCM

डिजाइन की गई स्पिलवे क्षमता: 2000 m³/sec

जलाशय क्षेत्र: 2100.000 वर्ग किमी



Activities of CWC in month of February, 2025 and March, 2025

1. 2nd All India State Ministers' Conference on "Water Vision@2047: The Way Forward at being organized by Ministry of Jal Shakti at Udaipur, Rajasthan

The 2nd All India State Water Ministers' Conference 2025 organized by National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti was held during 18th-19th February 2025 at The Ananta Resort, Udaipur, Rajasthan. The conference, themed "India@2047 – A Water Secure Nation," aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a developed, water-secure India. This vision emphasizes the importance of sustainable water management to support agriculture, industry, and domestic use while preserving our rivers and ecosystems for future generations. 1st All India Annual State Ministers Conference with the theme "Water Vision@2047" was held during 5th & 6th January 2023 at in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The 2nd All India State Water Ministers' Conference 2025 was graced by 34 Ministers and over 300 delegates from Central and State Governments during these two days. The conference featured approximately 35 presentations across six themes, 5 e-launches, and 15 video showcases highlighting key interventions. The Chief Ministers of Odisha and Tripura, and the deputy chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka graced the inaugural function of the conference with their presence. The chief guests and dignitaries attending the Second All India Conference of State Water Ministers were presented with 'Piku,' the mascot of the National Water Mission (NWM), as a commemorative memento.

Shri Mukesh Kumar Sinha, Chairman, Central Water Commission delivered a presentation on the topic "Opportunities and Challenges in Water Storages Infrastructure and augmenting the supply" in the thematic Session 2 (Theme: "Water Storages Infrastructure and Augmenting the Supply") of the conference.

A presentation on Remote Sensing Based Irrigation Performance Assessment Tools (E-QIPA) was made by Shri Padma Dorji, Chief Engineer (POMIO), Central Water Commission in thematic Session 4 (Theme: Water Delivery Services with Focus on Irrigation and other uses). A fact sheet containing the results generated by the E-QIPA tools of all the command areas of each state was shared with the states for feedback.

In the closing ceremony of the two-day conference, Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil emphasized that the conference was not just limited to discussing challenges but also focused on collective efforts to find solutions. The Minister also highlighted the importance of such forums in sharing knowledge and finding practical solutions to issues.



2. Discussion on the Report of the Negotiation Committee on Pennaiyar River Water Dispute

A meeting was taken by the Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR on 3rd March, 2025 through hybrid mode with the representatives of the basin States to discuss the way forward on the negotiated settlement of Pennaiyar River Water Disputes. The meeting was attended by senior officers of DoWR, RD&GR and CWC. On the stand for constitution of the Tribunal by Tamil Nadu, Secretary, DoWR, RD&GR suggested Tamil Nadu to re-consider their stand for constitution of the Tribunal as adjudication process by the Tribunal may take several years and Tamil Nadu has to wait till that time for resolution of disputes.

3. Review of Guidelines for Flood Protection on Border Rivers

The first meeting of the committee constituted for the review and modification of the existing "Guidelines for Submission, Appraisal and Acceptance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects, 2017" in the context of flood protection schemes on common border and transboundary rivers was convened on 26th March 2025. The meeting, chaired by the Member (River Management), Central Water Commission (CWC), was held in hybrid mode at Sewa Bhawan, New Delhi.

The session began with an overview of the present processes and challenges in flood management project appraisal, including procedural insights from both CWC and GFCC, and perspectives from the Border Security Force (BSF).

Key issues discussed included the need to:

- Reassess the cost-based categorisation of flood schemes using updated price indices.
- Rationalize the existing three-month compliance window for complex or data-deficient projects.
- Consider strategic relaxation of certain technical requirements in emergent or special conditions.
- Grant overriding priority to projects protecting Border Out Posts (BOPs) and other vital defence installations, even if they don't meet conventional benefit-cost ratio norms.
- Provide capacity-building support to state agencies for DPR preparation.
- Establish a Technical Advisory Team to assist in site-specific recommendations.
- Enable BSF to regularly share field-level flood and erosion data with CWC for enhanced situational awareness.
- Committee members were also invited to submit further inputs by 10th April 2025 to refine the appraisal process.
- The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair, reinforcing the commitment to streamline and strengthen flood management efforts in strategically critical areas.



4. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha, Chairman, CWC conducted an inspection of the Middle Ganga Circle, Varanasi, visited key hydrological observation sites under HOC, Varanasi, and held detailed discussions on issues related to strengthening support services for these sites.



5. 120th meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Farakka Barrage Project (FBP) at Farakka, West Bengal

The 120th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Farakka Barrage Project (TAC-FBP) was held on 8th February, 2025, under the chairmanship of Member (D&R), CWC. Before the meeting, a site visit to the Farakka Barrage Project was conducted on 07.02.2025 to assess on-ground conditions and ongoing works. The meeting was focused on key technical aspects and developments related to the project. The TAC meeting was attended by various members of TAC-FBP from various prestigious technical organisations e.g. CWC, CWPRS, CSMRS, NTPC, NHAI, Kolkata Port etc. Officials and experts participated in discussions to review project health and remedial measures to keep the project safe and running in good condition.



Fig: Feeder Canal Inspection



Fig.: Farakka Barrage

6. Visit to Lakhwar Multi-Purpose Project, Uttarakhand and Renukaji Dam Project, Himachal Pradesh

Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, Uttarakhand is under construction. The breakthrough of Diversion Tunnel (DT3) achieved by Project Authorities on 29th January 2025. A team of CWC visited the project site on 28.02.2025 to observe the ongoing construction works including the lining of DT3, DT3 Inlet and Exit Wing Wall Works, Excavation of Left Bank Vertical Shaft , left bank stripping works. The team discussed the ongoing works with the project authorities.



7. A two-day training on Procurement management was organized by CPMU under DRIP Phase II during 20th to 21st Feb, 2025 at Durgapur, West Bengal. In this training, total 25 officials from 4 IAs were participated. This training was the part of capacity building of the official under Component-II of ongoing DRIP-II Scheme.



8. A two-day training on Design Flood Routing & Inflow forecasting was organized by CPMU under DRIP Phase II during 20th to 21st Feb, 2025 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. In this training, total 19 officials from 2 IAs were participated. This training was the part of capacity building of the official under Component-II of ongoing DRIP-II Scheme.



9. A two-day training on Dam Instrumentation & Monitoring was organized by CPMU under DRIP Phase II during 27th to 28th Feb, 2025 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. In this training, total 26 officials from 9 IAs were participated. This training was the part of capacity building of the official under Component-II of ongoing DRIP-II Scheme.



SINDH RIVER

The Sindh River is one of the longest rivers of the Central India to join the Yamuna river on its right bank. It rises in a tank 543m above the sea level near a village in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh. It generally flows in north-eastern direction joins Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh, slightly downstream of the confluence of the Chambal with the Yamuna. The river receives number of tributaries; the more important of them are the Parbati and the Kunwari on its left bank and the Pahuj on its right.

सिंध नदी

सिंध नदी मध्य भारत की सबसे लंबी नदियों में से एक है जो यमुना नदी के दाहिने किनारे पर मिलती है। यह मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा जिले के एक गाँव के पास समुद्र तल से 543 मीटर ऊपर एक झील में निकलती है। यह आम तौर पर उत्तर-पूर्वी दिशा में बहती है और यमुना के साथ चंबल के संगम से थोड़ा नीचे उत्तर प्रदेश में यमुना में मिलती है। नदी में कई सहायक नदियाँ मिलती हैं उनमें से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण इसके बाएँ किनारे पर पार्वती तथा कुंवारी और इसके दाहिने किनारे पर पहुज हैं।

Source: <https://indiawris.gov.in/downloads/Ganga%20Basin.pdf>



SINDH RIVER

TENUGHAT Dam

Description

Name of river basin	:	Ganga basin
Name of river	:	Damodar
Dam type	:	Earthen
Nearest City	:	Bokaro, Jharkhand
Height above Lowest Foundation Level	:	50.61 m
Dam length	:	6494 m
Gross Storage Capacity	:	1021.000 MCM
Effective Storage Capacity	:	1000.000 MCM
Designed Spillway Capacity	:	15989 m ³ /sec
Reservoir Area	:	64.78 km ²

तेनुघाट बाँध

विवरण

नदी बेसिन का नाम	:	गंगा बेसिन
नदी का नाम	:	दामोदर
बांध का प्रकार	:	मृदा
निकटतम शहर	:	बोकारो, झारखंड
निम्नतम नींव स्तर से ऊंचाई	:	50.61 मीटर
बांध की लंबाई	:	6494 मीटर
सकल भंडारण क्षमता	:	1021.000 MCM
प्रभावी भंडारण क्षमता	:	1000.000 MCM
डिजाइन की गई स्पिलवे क्षमता	:	15989 m ³ /sec
जलाशय क्षेत्र	:	64.78 वर्ग किमी



Activities of CWC in month of April, 2025 and May, 2025

1. CWC's 80th Foundation Day Celebration.

CWC celebrated its 80th Foundation Day on 14th April 2025 which also marked the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in the inception and organizational development of present day CWC. The event highlighted the historical background, role and contributions of CWC in water sector of the country.

Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR) graced the occasion as Chief Guest which was also attended by dignitaries from Central or State Govt. Organizations including Dr. Ranbir Singh, Chairman, Brahmaputra Board, Dr. Syamal Kumar Sarkar, Distinguished Fellow (TERI), Shri Subodh Yadav, Additional Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR). Senior officials and Dignitaries from several national and international organisation shared their experience about collaboration with CWC through video messages.

A new training hall named after Shri A.N. Khosla who happened to be the first Chairman of CWC (erstwhile CWINC) was inaugurated by Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR).

The thematic sessions covered two significant topics: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contributions to the Water Sector & Water Vision 2047 — with thought-provoking inputs from experts including representatives from the World Bank, ADB.

The day concluded with the felicitation of outstanding officers for significant contribution and JEs for best HO Site, appreciating their commitment to excellence.

The Foundation Day of Central Water Commission was marked with thoughtful reflections, knowledge-sharing, and recognition of excellence in the water sector.



2. MoU between CWC and IIT Delhi

CWC and IIT Delhi have signed an MoU to collaborate on internships, PhD programs, research, training, and knowledge sharing. The partnership aims to drive innovation in the water sector and address real-world challenges through joint efforts.

CWC Chairman Dr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha said, "This collaboration will open new avenues for innovation and real-world learning."

IIT Delhi Director Prof. Rangan Banerjee added, "Together, we can build sustainable technologies to solve water challenges."

On the occasion of MoU signing ceremony, several senior functionaries from both institutions, including Dr. Dhanya CT, Associate Dean, Academics, and Professor, Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi; Prof. Vasant Matsagar, Head, Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi; Sh. Bhopal Singh, Member (Design & Research), CWC, Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Chief Engineer (HRM), CWC and Sunil Kumar, Director (Training), CWC) were present.



3. Meeting on Flood preparedness

Meeting on Flood preparedness for the ensuing Monsoon 2025 was held on 16.05.2025 under the chairmanship of Shri G Naga Mohan, CE, M&ERO, CWC, Bhubaneswar. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Govt of Odisha, Govt of Chhattisgarh, Govt of AP, Govt of Jharkhand and officers of CWC.



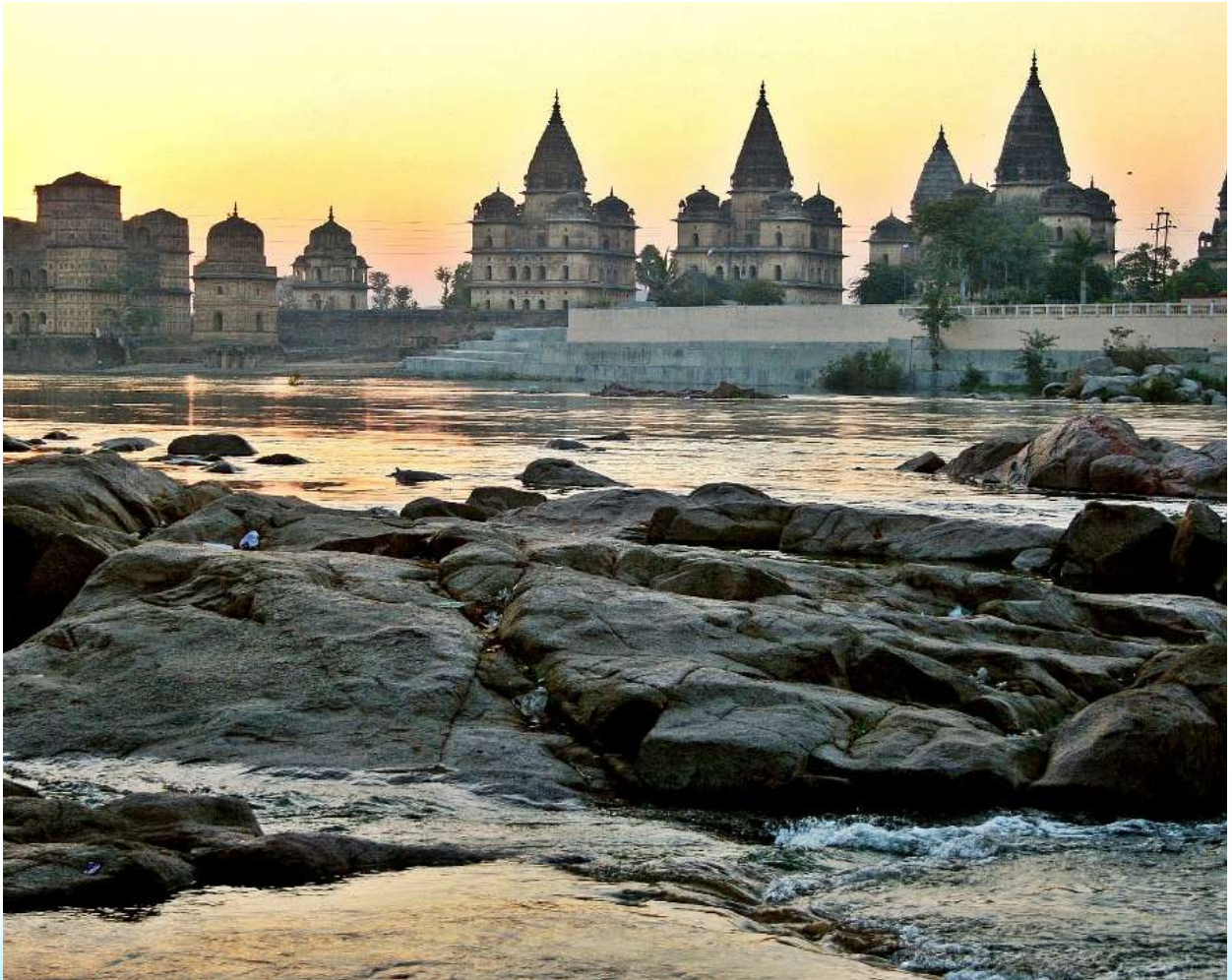
BETWA RIVER

The Betwa or Vetravati is a river in Northern India and a tributary of the Yamuna. The Betwa rises in the Vindhya Range just north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. After flowing in a north-eastern direction through Madhya Pradesh, it enters the Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh. After traversing 590 km, the river joins the Yamuna near Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh. The river has 14 principal tributaries out of which 11 are completely in Madhya Pradesh. The Halali and Dhasan rivers are the important tributaries of the Betwa river.

बेतवा नदी

बेतवा, जिसे वेत्रावती भी कहा जाता है, उत्तरी भारत में बहने वाली यमुना की एक सहायक नदी है। बेतवा नदी का उद्गम मध्य प्रदेश के होशंगाबाद के ठीक उत्तर में स्थित विंध्याचल पर्वतमाला में होता है। मध्य प्रदेश में उत्तर-पूर्व दिशा में बहने के बाद यह उत्तर प्रदेश के झांसी जिले में प्रवेश करती है। लगभग 590 किलोमीटर की यात्रा पूरी करने के बाद यह नदी उत्तर प्रदेश के हमीरपुर के पास यमुना नदी में मिल जाती है। इस नदी की 14 प्रमुख सहायक नदियाँ हैं, जिनमें से 11 पूरी तरह मध्य प्रदेश में बहती हैं। हलाली और धसान नदियाँ बेतवा नदी की महत्वपूर्ण सहायक नदियाँ हैं।

Source: <https://indiawris.gov.in/downloads/Ganga%20Basin.pdf>



BETWA RIVER

DHOLAWAD DAM

Description:

Name of river basin: Mahi basin

Name of river: Jhamad Nadi

Dam type: Earthfill Embankment

Nearest City: Sailana, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh

Height above Lowest Foundation Level: 36.86m

Dam length: 1360 m

Gross Storage Capacity: 54267500 m³

Effective Storage Capacity: 49916000 m³

Designed Spillway Capacity: 1473 m³/sec

Reservoir Area: 5972000 m²

धोलावड़ बाँध

धोलावड़ बाँध

विवरण:

नदी बेसिन का नाम: माही बेसिन

नदी का नाम: ज़ामड़ नदी

बाँध का प्रकार: मृदा तटबंध

निकटतम शहर: सैलाना, रतलाम, मध्य प्रदेश

निम्नतम नींव स्तर से ऊँचाई: 36.86 मीटर

बाँध की लंबाई: 1360 मीटर

सकल भंडारण क्षमता: 54267500 m³

प्रभावी भंडारण क्षमता: 49916000 m³

डिजाइन की गई स्पिलवे क्षमता: 1473 m³/सेकंड

जलाशय क्षेत्र: 5972000 m²



DHOLAWAD DAM

Activities of CWC in the month of July 2025 and August 2025



1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) was signed on 14th August 2025, by the Chairman, CWC, and the Director General of Meteorology, IMD, and officers from both organizations. MoU aims at further streamlining the data exchange, enabling enhanced scientific and technical research in both institutions. The collaboration is a significant step towards strengthening early warning for disaster mitigation and risk management, particularly in addressing challenges posed by the riverine floods and flash floods.

2. On 23.07.2025 Honourable President of India addressed the newly recruited CWES (Central Water Engineering Services) officers of the 2022 and 2023 batches. The session saw the active participation of 32 officers, each of whom are poised to play an integral role in the nation's water resource management.

This distinguished gathering served as an invaluable platform for the officers to engage in meaningful discussions, share professional experiences, and deliberate on the emerging challenges and promising opportunities within the field of water engineering. The session provided an opportunity to outline the expectations and responsibilities entrusted to CWES officers, particularly in the context of ensuring sustainable, efficient, and equitable management of the nation's water resources.



3. The Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) conducted a three-day Appreciation Course on "Parliamentary Processes and Procedures" from 6th to 8th August 2025 for 32 newly recruited officers of the Central Water Engineering Service (CWES) belonging to the 2022 and 2023 batches. The programme aimed to enhance the officers' understanding of the functioning of the Indian Parliament, its legislative procedures underpinning the parliamentary system. A key highlight of the programme was an interactive meeting with the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, held on 8th August 2025, during which the Speaker addressed the officers, shared insights on the significance of parliamentary engagement by civil servants, and encouraged them to uphold the highest standards of public service.



4. A Two day (18th & 19th August 2025) conference jointly organised by Asian Development Bank & Government of Kerala organised on the theme "Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities - A sea of Solutions" was inaugurated at Kochi today -18th August 2025. Shri Atul Jain, Chairman, CWC delivered opening remarks. Shri D. P. Mathuria, CE, CWC & Shri R Thangamani, CE, CWC also participated in the conference.



5. Shri. Atul Jain, Chairman, CWC inspected CWC Office complex -"Jaladhara", Kochi today-18th August. Shri D. P. Mathuria, CE, P&D, CWC & Shri R. Thangamani, CE, CSRO, CWC and other officials were present during the inspection. During the inspection, he visited the Offices, Water Quality Lab, Coastal Management Information system (CMIS) -Equipments, Displayed Model of CMIS -Site Ponnani and interacted with CWC officials.



6. 1st Flood Crisis Management Team meeting was held at Hirakud Dam under the chairmanship of Shri G Nagamohan, Chief Engineer, M&ERO, Bhubaneswar along with Water Resource Department, Govt. Of Odisha on 16.07.2025.



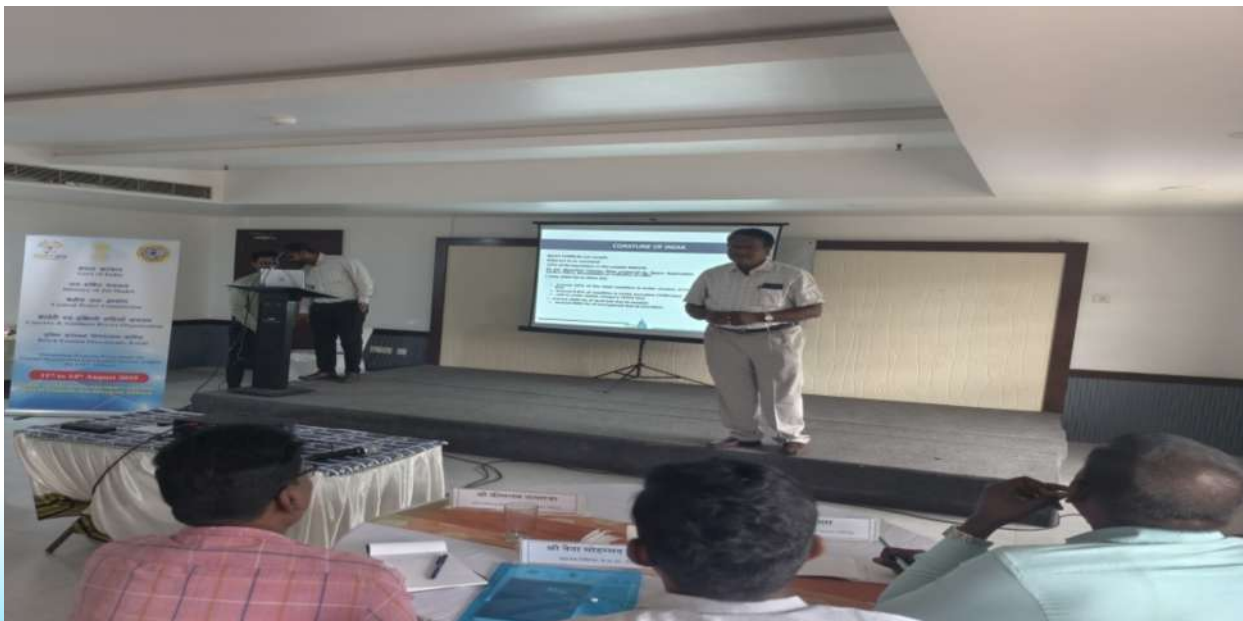
7. श्री एच एस सेंगर, मुख्य अभियंता, यमुना बेसिन संगठन द्वारा दिनांक 26 जुलाई 2025 को ऊपरी यमुना मण्डल के अंतर्गत संचालित गेज, निस्सारण, गाद एवं जल गुणवत्ता स्थलों दिल्ली रेल्वे ब्रिज, पल्ला एवं बागपत के द्वारा निरीक्षण किया गया। निरीक्षण के दौरान श्री नागेन्द्र कुमार सिंह, अधिशाषी अभियंता, ऊपरी यमुना मण्डल व अन्य अधिकारी एवं कर्मचारी उपस्थित रहे। मुख्य अभियंता द्वारा इस दौरान ADCP से निस्सारण मापन करवाने के साथ-साथ स्थल पर अवस्थित जल गुणवत्ता प्रयोगशाला में घुल ऑक्सिजन (DO) की जांच भी करवायी गयी।



8. Shri R Thangamani, Chief Engineer, Cauvery & Southern Rivers Organisation, CWC, Coimbatore inspected the Gauge, Discharge, Silt and Water Quality Site Kumbidi (Kuttiipura) on River Bharathapuzha. Site Discharge and Check Discharge was measured using Boat with Onboard Engine.



9. Beach Erosion Directorate, CWC, Kochi under C&SRO, CWC conducted a 4 days Orientation Training Programme on Costal Information Management System (CMIS) Activities for officers CWC" at Ponnani, Kerala during 11-14 August 2025 (4 days). Shri R.Thangamani, CE, C&SRO, inaugurated the programme and delivered the first session. CWC officials from various organization were nominated for participation in the training. The programme was coordinated by Shri Adarsh M S, Deputy Director, Beach Erosion Directorate and others officials from BE Dte.



Activities of CWC in the month of September 2025

1. Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, IAS (MP-1992) has taken over the charge of Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR recently. He along with Additional Secretary (Admin & IC) visited Central Water Commission (HQ.), Sewa Bhawan, New Delhi on 06.09.2025. Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR was welcomed by Chairman, CWC and a presentation was made on activities of Central Water Commission. Detailed discussion was held during the meeting with senior officers of CWC. Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR reviewed the activities of Central Water Commission and made important suggestions for making the activities of CWC more useful for public at large.



2. महात्मा गांधी के स्वच्छ एवं विकसित भारत की कल्पना को साकार करने की दिशा में एक कदम बढ़ाते हुए दिनांक 17.09.2025 को केन्द्रीय जल आयोग में माननीय अध्यक्ष, केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के मार्गदर्शन में सभी अधिकारियों ने स्वच्छता की शपथ ली और स्वच्छ भारत के संकल्प को दोहराया।



3. दिनांक 23.09.2025 को केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष, श्री अतुल जैन की उपस्थिति में केन्द्रीय जल आयोग (मुख्यालय) के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों द्वारा नवीन पुस्तकालय भवन, आर. के. पुरम के आसपास श्रम दान के माध्यम से स्वच्छता अभियान चलाया गया। यह पहल "स्वच्छता ही सेवा 2025" के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित गतिविधियों का एक अभिन्न अंग है।



- 04 केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष श्री अतुल जैन एवं सभी अधिकारी तथा कर्मचारी द्वारा माननीय जल शक्ति मंत्री, श्री सी. आर. पाटिल जी की गरिमामय उपस्थिति में दिनांक 25.09.2025 सुबह 08:00 बजे से कालिंदी कुंज घाट, ओखला बैराज के पास “एक दिन, एक घंटा, एक साथ” विषय पर स्वच्छता अभियान में भाग लेकर श्रमदान किया गया। यह कार्यक्रम राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन (NMCG) द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था।



5. The 4th World Irrigation Forum (WIF4) and the 76th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting of ICID was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 7th to 13th September 2025. An Indian delegation, led by Sh. Yogesh Paithankar, Member (WP&P), CWC including Deputy Directors Karishma Bhatnagar Malhotra, Sagar Khichi, and Karambeer from CWC, represented India and INCID in high-level sessions during the event.



6. India shines at ICID 2025: Four irrigation projects from India have been honoured with the prestigious ICID World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS) Awards 2025 at the ICID event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:

1. Cheyyar Anicut, Tamil Nadu
2. Noyyal River System Tanks, Tamil Nadu
3. Kodivery Anicut, Tamil Nadu
4. Ekrukha Medium Project, Maharashtra

The awards were received on behalf of INCID by Sh. Yogesh Paithankar, Member (WP&P), CWC. A proud recognition of India's rich irrigation heritage and its contribution to sustainable water management.



7. दिनांक 13 सितंबर 2025 को श्री राजीव कुमार, मुख्य अभियंता, ऊपरी गंगा बेसिन संगठन, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, लखनऊ के द्वारा भटपुरवाघाट स्थल का निरीक्षण किया गया। इस दौरान श्री सुधीर कुमार, अधीक्षण अभियंता, जल विज्ञानीय प्रेक्षण परिमंडल, केन्द्रीय जल आयोग, देहरादून एवं श्री शिवम, उप मंडलीय अभियंता, गोमती उप मंडल, लखनऊ उपस्थित रहे। इस दौरान मुख्य अभियंता महोदय द्वारा निस्सारण स्थल, टेलीमेट्री स्टेशन एवं कार्यालय भवन का निरीक्षण किया गया एवं स्थल के सुचारू रूप से संचालन हेतु उचित दिशा निर्देश दिए गए। इसी के साथ ही मुख्यालय, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, नई दिल्ली के द्वारा हाल ही में प्रारंभ किए गए CWC Geo Crop एप्लीकेशन में श्री शिवम, उप मंडलीय अभियंता द्वारा स्थल के आस पास के क्षेत्र के आंकड़े CWC Geo Crop एप्लीकेशन में भरने का Demonstration दिया गया।



6. Interaction Meeting & Felicitation Ceremony

On 23rd April 2025, the Central Water Commission hosted an Interaction Meeting & Felicitation Ceremony at its HQ in New Delhi for newly appointed and promoted Assistant Directors.

The event was graced by the Chairman, CWC, who addressed the officers and delivered an insightful presentation on "Innovation and Challenges in Water Resources Projects" — inspiring fresh perspectives and vision for the road ahead.

The event also featured an interaction session, experience sharing, and distribution of mementos to over 85 dynamic officers stepping into pivotal roles.



NERIWALM, TEZPUR 2025

TOWARDS CITIZEN-CENTRIC GOVERNANCE: 'RASHTRIYA KARMAYOGI LARGE SCALE JAN SEVA PROGRAM' AT NERIWALM

NERIWALM, Tezpur organized a one-day training programme on "Rashtriya Karmayogi" for its officials in two batches, held on 23rd and 29th July 2025. The programme was designed to strengthen the core values of integrity, ethical conduct, mindfulness, and citizen-centric service, aligning with the vision of Mission Karmayogi. Through this initiative, NERIWALM reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing a culture of accountability, professionalism, and service excellence among its workforce.



NERIWALM CELEBRATES PATRIOTISM WITH 'TIRANGA YATRA'



NERIWALM, Tezpur, Assam, organized a 'Tiranga Yatra' under the Government of India's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative, celebrating the spirit of unity and patriotism. Officials and staff enthusiastically participated in the yatra, holding the National Flag with pride and reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of freedom and nation-building. The event not only strengthened the sense of national pride among participants but also spread the message of collective responsibility towards preserving India's unity and integrity.

NERIWALM MARKS 79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

NERIWALM, Tezpur, celebrated the 79th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of national pride. The celebration began with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Officials, staff, family members, and children actively participated in the event, which also featured a cultural programme showcasing the rich heritage and unity of the nation. The occasion served as a reminder of India's hard-won freedom and the collective responsibility to uphold its values of democracy, integrity, and progress.



SHAPING FUTURE ENGINEERS: NERIWALM'S IN-PLANT TRAINING PROGRAMME 2025



NERIWALM successfully conducted a one-month in-plant training programme during June–July 2025 for B.Tech students from Assam University, NERIST, and Nagaland University. The training focused on four key modules: Micro-Irrigation Design, Installation and Management; Application of Remote Sensing (RS) and GIS in Irrigation, Land and Water Management; Survey and Design of Irrigation Projects; and Socio-Economic Aspects along with Measurement of Irrigation Water and Design of Structures. The programme was designed to provide a blend of theoretical and practical knowledge through a series of classroom sessions, hands-on guided practices, exposure visits to field sites, group activities, and recap sessions. This initiative by NERIWALM helped students improve their technical skills and gain practical knowledge in the field of irrigation and water resource management, preparing them better for their future careers.



NERIWALM FORGES ACADEMIC-PRACTICAL LINKAGES THROUGH NEP INTERNSHIP

As part of the NEP student engagement initiative, NERIWALM, Tezpur, organized three internship programmes during June–July 2025 for students of Chemistry, Botany, and Geography. Students gained hands-on exposure to Soil Chemistry for Sustainable Land Use, Crop Science with a focus on Land and Water Management, and Topographical Survey with Applications of RS & GIS in Water Resource Management. The programme combined classroom lectures, practical demonstrations, field visits, and group activities, offering a holistic learning experience that connected theory with real-world applications in land and water management.



EMPOWERING FARMERS OF MIZORAM THROUGH SPRINGSHED-BASED WATER MANAGEMENT

NERIWALM, Tezpur, organized a one-day training programme on “Water Conservation and Water Management with respect to Springshed” for the farmers of Mizoram on 19th August 2025 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Aizawl. The programme highlighted the importance of springshed management in ensuring sustainable water availability for agriculture and domestic use. Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, farmers were sensitized on techniques of water conservation, efficient utilization, and community-based management practices. The initiative aimed to strengthen local capacities and promote sustainable farming systems in the hilly regions of Mizoram.



ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE THROUGH MICRO-IRRIGATION TRAINING IN MIZORAM BY NERIWLAM



NERIWALM, Tezpur, successfully organized a two-day training programme on “Micro Irrigation Design, Installation and Management” from 19th–20th August 2025 in Mizoram. The programme was attended by officers from the Departments of Irrigation, Horticulture, and Agriculture, and focused on modern irrigation techniques for enhancing water-use efficiency and promoting sustainable farming practices. Participants gained practical insights into system design, installation, and management of micro-irrigation, equipping them with skills to support

farmers in adopting innovative water management solutions.

NERIWALM EMPOWERS WOMEN FARMERS OF MIZORAM THROUGH TRAINING ON ‘MULTIPLE CROPPING AND WATER MANAGEMENT’

NERIWALM, Tezpur, successfully organized a one-day training programme on “Multiple Cropping and Water Management” on 20th August 2025 at the office of KVK, Aizawl. Specially designed for progressive women farmers of Mizoram, the programme focused on building knowledge and practical skills in sustainable cropping practices, crop diversification, and efficient water management. The training aimed to strengthen women’s role in agriculture by equipping them with techniques to enhance productivity, conserve resources, and ensure farm sustainability in the hilly terrains of Mizoram.



CAPACITY BUILDING ON RASHTRIYA KARMAYOGI LARGE SCALE JAN SEVA PROGRAM FOR BRAHMAPUTRA BOARD OFFICIALS



On 26th August, 2025, North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur organized a one-day capacity-building programme on “Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Program” for the officials of Brahmaputra Board. The training was facilitated by Dr. Luna Moni Das, Assistant Professor (Social Science) and Dr. Prianka Paul, Assistant Professor (Water Resources Engineering) at NERIWALM. The programme focused on nurturing a spirit of service orientation, integrity, ethical responsibility, and mindfulness among the officials of the Brahmaputra Board, in line with the objectives of Mission Karmayogi. Through interactive discussions and practical activities, participants were encouraged to engage in self-reflection and value-based learning. The training concluded with a call to embrace Seva Bhaav in day-to-day official responsibilities, thereby strengthening the culture of citizen-centric governance.



NERIWALM In-Plant Training 2025 for B.Tech students from College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology, Sikkim.



NERIWALM successfully conducted a one-month in-plant training programme during Aug-Sept, 2025 for B.Tech students from College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology, Sikkim. The programme was carefully structured to offer a balanced mix of theory and practice through interactive classroom sessions, guided hands-on exercises, field exposure visits, group activities, and recap discussions. Through this initiative, NERIWALM enabled students to sharpen their technical competencies while gaining valuable practical insights into irrigation and water resource management.

NERIWALM Observes 'Rashtriya Hindi Diwas'

To mark Rashtriya Hindi Diwas on 14th September, 2025, the Director along with all officials of NERIWALM took a solemn pledge to encourage the use of Hindi in official work and everyday communication. As part of the observance, a group discussion on the theme "एकता और सांस्कृतिक गौरव की वैश्विक आवाज" was organized, offering a platform for insightful exchange of ideas and perspectives.



Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2025 Observed at NERIWALM



Under the dynamic leadership of the Director, NERIWALM launched the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 5.0 within the institute premises on 17th September 2025. The observance began with the Swachhata Pledge, administered by the Director in the presence of all officials, reaffirming their collective commitment to cleanliness and hygiene. Continuing the spirit of the campaign, a mass cleanliness drive was carried out on within the campus. The initiative reflected the institute's dedication towards upholding the ideals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and promoting a clean, green, and sustainable environment.



NEW MANTRA TO REVIVE THE GANGA: USING 60-YEAR-OLD SATELLITE IMAGES FOR A DATA-DRIVEN CONSERVATION BLUEPRINT

**NAMAMI GANGE AND IIT KANPUR UNLOCK HALF A CENTURY OF THE RIVER'S
TRANSFORMATION; DIGITAL RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED ON WEB-GIS**



In a historic step to chart the Ganga's future through its past, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has launched a pioneering project in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The initiative combines rare "Corona" satellite images from 1965 originally captured by the American spy satellite program with advanced imagery from 2018–19 to record over five decades of changes in the river's morphology, flow and land use. This project is being hailed as a milestone in developing a scientific, data-driven blueprint for Ganga conservation and restoration. The findings will form part of the Ganga Knowledge Centre, a repository of research, portals, and datasets that will guide decision-making for river rejuvenation.

The Corona images capture the Ganga in its relatively untouched, free-flowing form. In contrast, present-day imagery reflects how



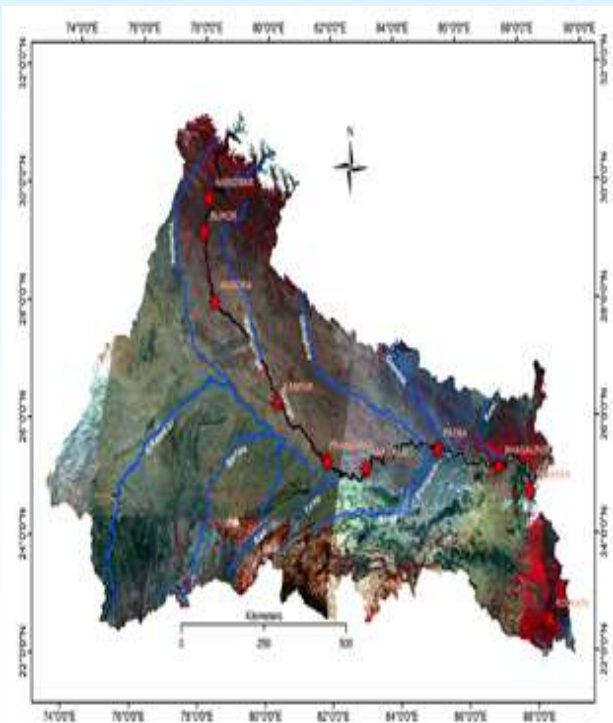
barrages, embankments, urban expansion and agricultural pressures have altered the river's natural rhythm. By mapping these changes, scientists can now identify areas where restoration efforts could help the Ganga regain its meandering pace and ecological balance.

Beyond geomorphology, the project also highlights how encroachment, rapid urbanization and intensified agriculture have reshaped the river basin. To document and analyze these transformations, an advanced Web-GIS library is being developed. This interactive platform will allow real-time access to land use and land cover (LULC) data, ensuring that future policies, river management strategies, and restoration plans are grounded in robust science. The data will also be hosted on the Google Earth Engine, enabling planners and researchers to conduct analysis and design interventions on a single platform. Special digital displays are being prepared for nine major locations—Haridwar, Bijnor, Narora, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur, and Farakka to support decision-making at both local and national levels.

The project involves several decisive steps. Using Corona images, researchers will delineate the Ganga basin's boundaries and chart historical changes, followed by comparative studies of geomorphic shifts and land use patterns between 1965–75 and the present. All data will be integrated into a query-enabled Web-GIS module, making it instantly accessible to researchers and planners. A system for public dissemination will also be created to facilitate collaboration and encourage further research among diverse stakeholders.

According to IIT Kanpur scientists, this initiative marks the beginning of a new era of data-driven planning for river conservation in India. While technical challenges remain, the research team is refining its methods to improve accuracy and speed, making the Ganga's future picture clearer with each step.

There could be no better guide for the Ganga's rejuvenation than precise images of its past. By blending cutting-edge science with India's cultural reverence for the river, NMCG's initiative is emerging as a landmark effort to restore the Ganga to its clean, free-flowing, and life-giving form ensuring its vitality for generations to come.



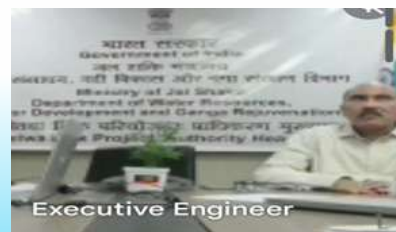
23RD MEETING OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERLINKING OF RIVERS

23rd meeting of Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers held on 15.07.2025 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti.



13TH MEETING OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP OF KEN-BETWA LINK PROJECT AUTHORITY

13th meeting of Technical Advisory Group of Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (TAG-KBLPA) held on 13.08.2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri D. P. Bhargava, Former Director (Technical), NHPC, Faridabad through online mode.



India Water Week (IWW)

Conceptualized and organized for the first time in 2012, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India is organizing Water Week biannually. It comprises Conference, Exhibition and a Study Tour.

Eight editions of event have been organized in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2024. The 8th India Water Week-2024 was successfully organized at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi during September 17-21, 2024 and the event was inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India.



With the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, it has been now decided to organize "India Water Week" as "India International Water Week".

9th India International Water Week (IIWW) - 2026

9th India International Water Week – 2026 with theme "Climate Resilient Water Future: Path to Prosperity" from September 22-26, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and focus on theme and International issues in field of water.



First Meeting of Technical Committee of IIWW-2026

First meeting of Technical Committee of IIWW-2026 was held on July 14, 2025 under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CWC & the Chairman of the Technical Committee for IIWW-2026.

First Meeting of Organizing Committee of IIWW-2026

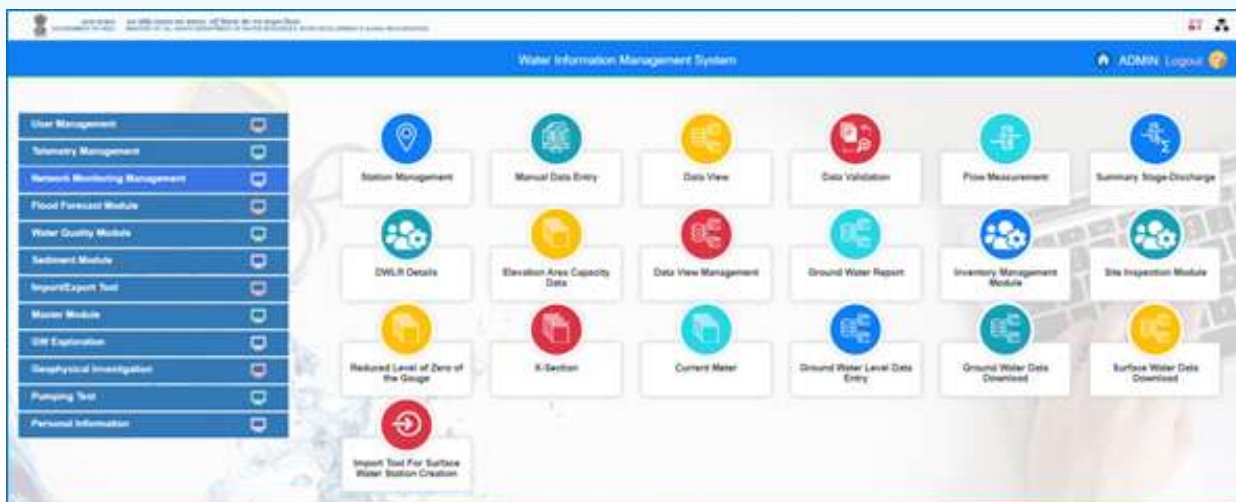
First meeting of Organizing Committee of IIWW-2026 was held on August 20, 2025 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, DoWR RD&GR & the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for IIWW-2026.

National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC)

During the period July -August 2025, following enhancements been made in Water Information Management System (WIMS).

1. Development of New Module - Import Tool for Surface Water Station Creation in WIMS

The Import Tool for Surface Water Station Creation, within the Network Monitoring Management module, streamlines the process of adding multiple surface water monitoring stations by enabling bulk uploads through a single Excel file.



2. API Developments and Enhancements: Data Dissemination through APIs, SFTPs and other modes to Central & State Agencies from Water Information Management System (WIMS).

APIs	Details
Snow Gauge & Meteorological Stations (SG & MS) Sites	Development of API for data exchange from Snow Gauge & Meteorological Stations installed under CWC-reg.
Geospatial DSS (Maharashtra)	API created for integration with the Geospatial Decision Support System (DSS) of Maharashtra.
Forecast & Water Level	Enhancement and updation of APIs delivering forecast and water level data to CWC.
Surface Water Manual Stations	Updation of legacy API service for manual stations, including Highest Flood Level (HFL) and related metadata.
Hydrological Observation (HO) & Telemetry Stations	Development of API providing real-time and historical data for all Hydrological Observation (HO) and Telemetry Stations of CWC.
Surface Velocity Radar (SVR) Stations	API designed for fetching station metadata including minimum/maximum dates and data count.
Snow Gauge & Meteorological Stations (SG & MS) Metadata	API prepared to fetch metadata (min/max dates and data count) for Snow Gauge & Meteorological Stations.
State Data Integration (Meghalaya SWIC)	API created to enable seamless data sharing and integration with Meghalaya State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC).

Trainings : Training sessions were conducted on 25th July, 2025 to support implementing agencies of National Hydrology Project (NHP) to familiarize them with various features and functionalities of Water Information Management System (WIMS) modules. These modules are Data Entry for Water Quality and new module Import Tool functionality for Bulk upload of Surface water stations. The sessions consisted of a detailed presentation on these modules, providing a thorough understanding, followed by a live demonstration.

Development of New Module - Import Tool for Ground Water Station Creation in WIMS

A new module titled **Import Tool for Ground Water Station Creation** has been successfully developed for integration under the Network Monitoring Management module in WIMS.

This feature facilitates the bulk import of **groundwater monitoring stations** using a predefined format, significantly streamlining the process of uploading multiple groundwater station records and enhancing operational efficiency.



Sharing of data through API

Following are the list of APIs developed for data dissemination to Central & State Agencies from Water Information Management System (WIMS).

APIs	Details
1. Real-Time and Historical Data	For all HO and telemetry stations of CWC
2. Surface Velocity Radar System Metadata	Fetching station metadata with min/max date and data count for Surface Velocity Radar System stations
3. Snow Gauge & Meteorological Stations (SG & MS) Metadata	Fetching station metadata with min/max date and data count for SG & MS stations
4. State Data Integration (Meghalaya SWIC)	API developed to enable seamless data sharing and integration with Meghalaya State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC).

National Water Mission 2025

60th Edition of Water Talk



The session began with an introduction to the 60th edition of the 'Water Talk' series, jointly organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, held on 8th July 2025. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the speaker and all attendees. She emphasized the significance of the Water Talk series as a platform for knowledge-sharing on water use efficiency and conservation.

During the session, the importance of the wise use of wetlands was highlighted by Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of the Chennai-based Care Earth Trust. The presentation was introduced with an explanation of what constitutes wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, which embraces a broad spectrum of natural and human-made habitats— including inland areas such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers, and lakes; coastal zones like saltmarshes, mangroves, and seagrass beds; as well as coral reefs and other marine environments up to six metres deep at low tide. Human-made wetlands including wastewater treatment areas are also included under this definition.

The inclusion of wastewater forms and other anthropogenic wetlands was specifically noted. It was underscored that most ecosystem services provided by wetlands are intangible, indirect, and invisible, which presents significant challenges for their conservation. It was concluded that direct action on the ground must be taken to address these challenges and ensure effective wetland preservation.

Dr. Jayshree emphasized the concept of the “wise use” of wetlands during the presentation. It was explained that this refers to the maintenance of a wetland’s ecological character through the application of ecosystem-based approaches within the framework of sustainable development an interpretation rooted in the principles of the Ramsar Convention. The term “ecological character” was further clarified as the combination of a wetland’s components, natural processes, and the benefits or services it provides at any given time. It was noted that, as wetlands possess distinctive

characteristics, the first step must be to identify and understand that character in order to ensure its effective preservation and management.

The critical importance of understanding wetland ecosystem services was underscored. These services are broadly classified into four categories: provisioning, cultural, regulating, and supporting. Provisioning services—such as water for agriculture, drinking water, and food—are highly valued because of their direct human benefits. Cultural services, being intangible, tend to be underappreciated economically. Regulating services, including climate regulation and flood control, are vital yet often invisible and unvalued—despite wetlands occurring across diverse landscapes, from coasts to high-altitude regions. Only recently has their significance begun to be recognized, though adequate recognition and action remain lacking. Finally, supporting services maintain fundamental ecosystem functions and

biodiversity. When assessed economically, wetlands rank among the highest-performing ecosystems in terms of value and carbon sequestration.

Wetlands offer critical ecosystem services such as flood regulation, storm and shoreline protection, and groundwater recharge, while also filtering sediments and nutrients essential for agriculture. They serve as natural water purifiers, biodiversity hotspots, and sources of diverse wetland-derived products. In addition, wetlands support cultural values, recreation, and tourism, and play a key role in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and adaptation services. Restoration efforts led by government and civil society were also highlighted, with success being gauged through indicators such as maintenance of wetland area, enhanced water retention, reduced risk to adjacent landscapes, social valuation, prevention of groundwater depletion, and species conservation. These metrics align with established frameworks for assessing restoration effectiveness.

India has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Ramsar Convention by actively promoting the "wise use" of wetlands and water resources through comprehensive national policies, legislation, and action plans. As one of the earliest countries to establish a legal framework for wetland conservation, India enacted the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in 2017 under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986. This legislation provides a strong foundation for integrated, ecosystem-based management of wetlands across the country. The efforts underscore India's leadership in wetland conservation and its dedication to fulfilling its commitments under the Ramsar Convention.

Dr. Jayshree also highlighted that contracting parties i.e. national governments are encouraged to develop, adopt and use necessary and appropriate instruments and resources to -have an outcome based approach, make decisions with awareness, enhance the potential of wetland ecosystem services, integrated water

management, wetland restoration, for management of invasive alien species and involve private sector.

In her presentation, Dr. Jayshree also highlighted an outcome-based approach is encouraged to be developed, adopted, and used by contracting parties through the provision of appropriate instruments and resources. Decisions are intended to be made with full awareness, and the potential of wetland ecosystem services is expected to be enhanced. Integrated water management, wetland restoration, and invasive alien

species management are to be promoted. Participatory programmes involving stakeholders and private sector involvement are to be employed.

During the session, Dr. Jayshree highlighted connectedness of wise use of wetland with all other conventions. It is connected with Biodiversity conservation, climate change, food security, health, agriculture, pollution abatement, fishing, industrial growth and every other aspect essential for human civilisation.

It was also highlighted that detrimental and disruptive factors in wetland restoration and conservation include challenges of nomenclature. A standardised system across sectors and departments is lacking, and even the approximate number of wetlands remains uncertain. Their characterization is unclear, given the wide diversity ranging from coastal to high-altitude ecosystems. Moreover, the multiplicity of names has added further complexity and confusion.

An ancient Tamil classification identified 47 wetland types based on multiple attributes. Key parameters included depth, organisation, inlet–outlet features, and the source of water. Over time, however, these distinctions have been generalised through the homogenisation of diverse types. Several categories, notably mountain wetlands, remain unrecognised, while an anthropocentric focus has persisted, with insufficient importance given to their ecological character.



Dr. Jayshree emphasized that wetland inventorying remains non-institutionalized, with skewed participation—often guided by CSR projects that neglect the wise-use principle—leading to displacement of local communities and disregard for their livelihoods. Restoration efforts lack type-specific guidelines and standards, and adaptive management is virtually absent. Research and funding criteria are biased, and without defined metrics, the ecological character of many wetlands has deteriorated. Additionally, monitoring systems, especially joint ones, are inadequate, creating significant gaps in wetland conservation outcomes.

She emphasised the fading human connection with wetlands. The cultural dimensions of wetland conservation in India reflect a forgotten history, weakened traditions, and a severed bond between communities and these ecosystems, leading to their perception and treatment as ‘no man’s land.’

In her presentation, Dr. Jayshree emphasized that A vision of wetland conservation in India, guided by the principle of Wise Use, remains achievable. Commitment, capability, and funding are already available, with only minor gaps to be bridged. India also holds the advantage of abundant expertise, extending beyond research institutions to civil society, government bodies, and diverse organisations.

Wetlands are acknowledged as multi-functional habitats, guided by rigorous scientific assessment and anchored in programmes for human well-being. Their restoration should be driven by realistic, time-bound goals, supported by innovative strategies and initiatives, with violations treated with due seriousness. It was emphasised that Progressive restoration guided by a reference model, should be adopted as a compliance feature.

It was emphasized that investment should focus on developing an informed constituency, especially among young adults and children, by orienting them towards wetland conservation. This emphasis needs to be integrated into

educational curricula, reinforced through the involvement of public figures and celebrities, and further strengthened by exhibitions and similar initiatives.

During the session, AS and MD expressed sincere gratitude and commended Dr. Jayshree for her outstanding efforts in fostering community engagement and raising awareness around wetland conservation in Chennai. She emphasized that evidence-based interventions and policy decisions must be grounded in the voices of communities directly impacted in the field.

AS and MD then outlined India’s wetland policy framework: Wetland conservation falls under the purview

of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and is guided by the Ramsar Convention. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 establish a regulatory structure led by a National Wetlands Committee, supported by State Wetlands Authorities. While the national committee provides guidance, each state authority is empowered to develop its own regulatory framework and oversee implementation.

AS and MD highlighted the challenges wetlands face at the community level. While community participation is essential, resistance often arises due to encroachments since shallow, marshy wetlands are particularly vulnerable to being occupied. Additionally, the spread of certain invasive weeds threatens the ecological balance, impacting the flora and fauna of these ecosystems.

AS and MD also cited state-specific initiatives, such as the development of “wetland health cards” in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab. Similar to the approach taken in the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, where integrated district water conservation plans were introduced for rainwater harvesting, some states have begun preparing integrated wetland management plans. However, there remains a pressing need for a comprehensive framework—covering integrated wetland management, stronger regulatory measures, and a clearer definition of wetlands.

Furthermore, AS and MD emphasized the importance of inter-sectoral coordination both among ministries and across states as wetlands are currently viewed largely as the domain of the Ministry of Environment. Under initiatives like Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Catch the Rain, efforts are being made to integrate wetland protection into district water conservation planning, encouraging District Magistrates and municipal bodies to actively take up this responsibility.

AS&MD observed that while the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched central initiatives—such as the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)—these efforts remain inadequate in the face of escalating threats to wetlands. Public awareness is growing, driven by visible challenges like disappearing water bodies, rising heat, and dwindling groundwater supplies. However, she emphasized that this awareness must be matched with faster, more coordinated action at both the national and state levels. Rather than treating wetlands as isolated entities—a byproduct of their legal designation and ecological fragility—they should be integrated into broader ecosystem planning, supported by robust community engagement and inter-sectoral collaboration.

61st Edition of Water Talk



The session began with an introduction to the 61st edition of the 'Water Talk' series, jointly organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, held on 21st August 2025. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the speaker and all attendees. She emphasized the significance of the Water Talk series as a platform for knowledge-sharing on water use efficiency and conservation.

The AS & MD emphasized the vital role of collaboration between academia and government in advancing water conservation. While the government contributes practical, on-ground experience, academia offers analytical insights, research, and capacity-building expertise, making their partnership highly impactful. Under the National Water Mission, as well as other initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Namami Gange, and Jal Jeevan Mission, strong collaboration between these two sectors has been continuously encouraged, enabling the integration of governance with scientific research. One of the key objectives of the National Water Mission—Goal 3—is stakeholder engagement. In this context, the Mission has established a research and development wing that focuses on funding studies in areas with data gaps, particularly concerning groundwater and surface water issues.

The AS & MD underscored the need for innovation in water conservation and shared the vision of advancing the research and development (R&D) wing to the next level. While the current guidelines are relatively simple, the aim is to broaden the scope of R&D by engaging larger companies and supporting startups and entrepreneurs who are keen to bring impactful solutions to the water sector. This agenda focuses on driving research forward while ensuring that key parameters are met—research must be community-acceptable, cost-effective, and designed to be replicable and scalable.

The AS & MD acknowledged and commended the contributions of Dr. Deepak Khare, Professor (HAG) in the Department of Water Resources Development & Management at IIT Roorkee, who also serves as BIS Chair Professor and Dean of Finance & Planning. With four decades of experience in the water sector, Dr. Khare has made remarkable contributions in areas such as rainwater harvesting, watershed management, canal command water management, urban water systems, and assessing the impacts of climate change on water resources.

During session, presentation on "Water Conservation for Sustainable Development through Innovation and Policy" was delivered by Dr. Deepak Khare, Dean of Finance & Planning and BIS Chair Professor at the Department of Water Resources Development and Management, IIT Roorkee.

Dr. Deepak Khare emphasized the major challenges in water management, noting the need to ensure availability across multiple sectors including drinking, agriculture, industry, municipal, and domestic use. He pointed out that extreme climatic events such as droughts and floods, further intensified by climate change, add to the complexity. Conservation, distribution, and efficient utilization of resources are also constrained by inadequate funding, manpower, and infrastructure for initiatives like watershed management and rainwater harvesting. Furthermore, he highlighted that water-related conflicts, both at national and international levels, are fuelled by issues such as river linking, policy shortcomings, and virtual water trade.

Dr. Deepak Khare emphasized that water conservation is crucial as it helps mitigate the impacts of drought and water scarcity, ensuring reliable availability for various needs. It also reduces the energy required for water treatment and delivery, thereby supporting sustainability and lowering environmental footprints. Moreover, conserving water plays a vital role in protecting aquatic ecosystems and preserving biodiversity, which are essential for maintaining ecological balance and long-term resilience.

During session, global water crisis was elaborated upon, with attention being drawn to projections that by 2050, 36% of cities will face water scarcity, and about one billion people will be exposed to perennial shortages. Instances such as the Cape Town crisis were cited as reminders of how unplanned urbanization can worsen scarcity. It was mentioned that the number of urban dwellers is expected to grow significantly, leading to an 80% rise in urban water demand by 2050. It was stressed that climate change will further alter the timing and distribution of water, worsening the scarcity.

During presentation, it was emphasized that India's water scenario highlights a stark imbalance between availability and demand. Although the country receives substantial rainfall, only a limited portion is utilizable due to geographical and infrastructural constraints. Per capita water availability has been declining sharply over the decades and is projected to fall to critical levels by 2050. At the same time, water demand—driven by population growth, agriculture, industry, and domestic needs—is rising steeply, with estimates showing a significant increase from current levels to well beyond 1,400 BCM by mid-century. These figures underscore the urgent need to sensitize the masses on the importance of water conservation and sustainable management.

Dr. Deepak Khare also discussed the Indian scenario and challenges, where high spatial and temporal variability of rainfall, erratic monsoons, and limited rainy days were

noted as major concerns. Water use efficiency in India was reported to be only 35–45%, significantly lower than in developed nations. It was observed that the rate of urbanization is increasing rapidly, with about 50% of the country's population projected to reside in cities by 2050. Urban water supply was described as highly inadequate, with water being available for only a few hours a day in most cities, and old transmission networks causing significant losses. Water contamination, over-extraction of groundwater, and widening demand-supply gaps were highlighted as critical threats to sustainability.

Special reference was made to urban water crises, such as the 2019 case of Chennai where reservoirs ran dry despite sufficient rainfall, forcing water to be transported by tankers. It was highlighted that groundwater currently meets about 48% of urban demand, but levels are falling drastically in major cities. Additionally, about 70% of India's water was reported to be contaminated, affecting millions of people. It was cautioned that, according to WWF and NITI Aayog, several Indian cities including Jaipur and Chennai will be under severe water stress by 2050 if immediate measures are not adopted.

It was highlighted that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global call to action aimed at ending poverty, safeguarding the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all by 2030. At their core, the SDGs seek to achieve a balanced integration of economic growth, environmental protection, and social well-being. It was also highlighted that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) closely connected to sustainable water management include: SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). These goals highlight the critical role of water in ensuring food security, public health, urban resilience, climate adaptation, and the protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Dr. Deepak Khare also shared his possible strategy for sustainable water management involves identifying all potential sources within the study area and conducting a realistic assessment of demand and supply to determine existing gaps. Special attention must be given to groundwater, considering its critical importance and the extent of related challenges. Factors such as land use change and rapid urbanization also need to be addressed through an integrated water management model. Emphasis should be placed on rainwater harvesting with appropriate strata, intake structures, and designs, alongside effective demand management options. Equally important is promoting water conservation

across all levels—individual, community, urban, rural, agricultural, and industrial—to ensure long-term sustainability.

In the presentation, it was conveyed that the hydrological cycle is being increasingly modified by human interventions such as groundwater extraction, irrigation, treated water reuse, and wastewater treatment. These interventions were described as major contributors to changes in water quantity and quality, resulting in additional flows like urban runoff and agricultural drainage. It was emphasized that challenges are being faced in ensuring water availability for drinking, agriculture, industries, and domestic

use, while extreme events such as droughts and floods are intensifying due to climate change.

Dr. Deepak Khare emphasized that the impact of urbanization can be seen in two major ways. First, it has increased the incidence of flash floods, as water from the watershed or basin outlets now flows more rapidly, resulting in urban flooding. Second, the time taken for water to travel from the watershed or basin has reduced significantly—from about two hours to just 40 minutes—thereby shortening the opportunity for natural recharge and leading to a decline in groundwater levels. He also stressed the importance of understanding the area before initiating any structure, such as drilling a tubewell or establishing an industry, since identifying the recharge zone of the aquifer is crucial. He pointed out that recharging deeper aquifers poses significant challenges.

Dr. Deepak Khare mentioned that rainwater harvesting is one of the most effective strategies for addressing these challenges. The potential of rainwater harvesting was explained with examples showing how even small catchment areas can yield significant amounts of water. Experiences from Indore were shared where rooftop rainwater harvesting and recharge shafts successfully

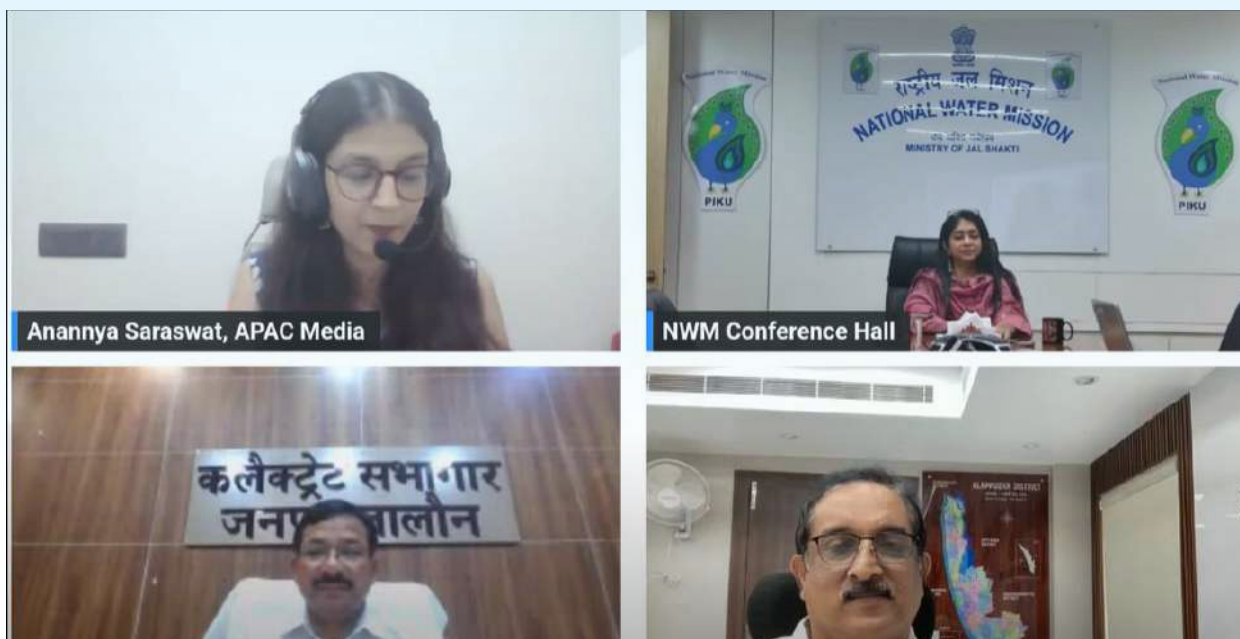
replenished aquifers and improved crop health. It was explained that if even 1% of India's land is used for rainwater harvesting, household needs across the nation can be met. Technical details regarding recharge rates, filter designs, and storage capacities were also provided to illustrate the feasibility of widespread adoption.

It was emphasized that people's participation is indispensable for the success of conservation practices. The role of NGOs, government agencies, media, and community groups was described as crucial for awareness generation and implementation. It was stated that coordination among these stakeholders is required to build public confidence and promote sustainable water management. Examples of successful awareness campaigns and workshops organised in Indore, Khandwa, and Ralegaon Siddhi were shared to show how collective action has promoted water conservation at the grassroots level.

Concluding remarks by AS&MD, highlighted the necessity of integrating demand–supply assessments, revival of local water bodies, land-use planning, and adoption of modern technologies for sustainable urban water management. It was underscored that rainwater harvesting, and water conservation practices cannot succeed without motivation, incentives, and enforceable rules. The importance of community-driven action was reinforced, with emphasis being placed on the need for “Jan Bhagidari” to spread awareness and strengthen collective responsibility. It was also emphasized that people can be made aware through the effective use of accessible data, and that communities should have a clear understanding of their area in terms of water availability. It was finally observed that a sustainable future can only be ensured when water is conserved, managed judiciously, and shared equitably, with active involvement of all sectors of society.



48TH EDITION OF DIALOGUE WITH DISTRICT MAGISTRATES (DMs)



The session began with an introduction to the 48th Edition of Water Series Webinar on Best Practice of Water Management - Dialogues with DMs, jointly organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the District Magistrates (DMs) and all the participants of Dialogue with DMs.

AS and MD commended DM, Shri Rajesh kumar Pandey for his outstanding efforts in reviving the Noon River, which had become completely moribund. He showcased how the revival was achieved through the active involvement of people under the concept of Jan Bhagidari. Similarly, DM, Shri Alex Varghese from Alappuzha, Kerala, played a pivotal role in rejuvenating a crucial component of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Although wetlands and lakes primarily fall under the domain of MoEFCC, he served as the driving inspiration behind the revival of the Vembanad Lake, stretching 96.5 km.

AS and MD emphasized that involving communities in large-scale projects is never an easy task. They pointed out that "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" has emerged as a major success, as it relies on low-cost recharge structures, is locally driven, and ensures active community participation. However, it was also underlined that the revival of rivers and lakes remains a far more challenging task.

Afterwards, the practices undertaken in Jalaun for groundwater conservation, water harvesting, and river rejuvenation were highlighted by DM, Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey. Emphasis was laid on the role of public participation in ensuring the

sustainability of water resources. Through the webinar, the efforts of Jalaun district were shared as best practices in water management.

The objective of the district initiatives was defined as the improvement of groundwater levels through structured conservation measures. Various challenges were noted, including prioritization of issues, participatory planning, limited resource utilization, and inadequate attention to social and economic development aspects. It was emphasized that financial, human, and natural resources had not been optimally utilized.

Sh. Rajesh highlighted that to address these challenges, strategies were prepared which focused on coordinated efforts with stakeholders, sensitization workshops, awareness drives, and efficient use of resources. Implementation was ensured through people's participation in government-led conservation schemes. By linking community efforts with administrative support, effective water harvesting and management was achieved.

The importance of groundwater status was presented through pre- and post-monsoon monitoring data of different blocks. Block-wise averages revealed that

fluctuations in water levels were significant and required targeted interventions. Improvement in water levels in several areas was reported after systematic efforts.

Sh. Rajesh informed that a series of successful initiatives was documented. The Water Summit 2024 was organized and the restoration of Noon river was undertaken. Village-level water budgeting methods were adopted, and water conservation activities were integrated with the Gram Panchayat Development Plans. Crop pattern change was encouraged as a means of water saving, and micro-irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems were promoted. Construction of check dams, farm bunds, ponds, soak pits, rainwater harvesting systems, and rejuvenation of traditional structures was carried out on a large scale.

Sh. Rajesh also informed that awareness campaigns were conducted through workshops, competitions, street plays, exhibitions, and school engagements. More than 600 training camps were organized across Gram Panchayats. Water dialogues were held with youth and school students. The concept of Pani Panchayats was institutionalized, under which water committees were formed in every village to prepare village water budgets and oversee recharge structures. Women's participation was strengthened by the designation of Jal Sahelis, who were entrusted with monitoring water quality, rainwater harvesting, and maintenance of structures. Through this, women were empowered both socially and economically.

It was highlighted that the restoration of Noon river was undertaken as a major initiative. The geographical details of the river and its encroachments were studied, and excavation and desilting were carried out. Encroachment removal, channel widening, and plantation were undertaken to restore natural flow. Support was received from departments, industries, civil society, and local communities. Panchayati Raj Institutions and district representatives actively participated in the rejuvenation process. Resources under MGNREGS and CSR were utilized for desilting of ponds and drains. Community awareness meetings were organized through Jal Chaupals. The river rejuvenation campaign was strengthened by

collective participation, ensuring that the riverbed was restored to its original course and irrigation facilities were revived for farmers.

During presentation, Sh. Rajesh informed that the outcomes were remarkable. Farmers of 47 villages were provided with irrigation benefits. The groundwater level in surrounding areas was improved, and flood protection was ensured for 12 villages. Around 17,706 farmers gained the benefit of three crop cycles. Large-scale plantation on riverbanks promoted environmental

sustainability. Media coverage was also received for the success of the initiative.

It was highlighted that crop diversification was promoted to reduce water-intensive cropping patterns. The area under mentha cultivation, which required excessive water, was replaced by pulses like moong. Data indicated that water savings of over 220 billion liters were achieved in 2025 through crop shift. Micro-irrigation covered over 13,000 hectares, ensuring more than 25 billion liters of water savings. Farmers' incomes were enhanced through higher productivity and diversification into millets, pulses, and oilseeds.

Various other measures such as check dams, Amrit Sarovar ponds, farm bunds, soak pits, and well rejuvenation were carried out in the district. These interventions demonstrated how integrated approaches involving the administration, local communities, and multiple stakeholders could lead to visible improvement in water security.

It was emphasised that positive changes were reflected in groundwater data, which indicated stabilization and gradual rise of water levels across blocks. Enhanced irrigation availability, reduction in flood risks, promotion of biodiversity, and improved farmer incomes were reported.

Sh. Rajesh emphasized that collective responsibility, people's participation, and scientific planning were essential for sustainable management of water resources. The experience of Jalaun was showcased as a model that could be replicated in other regions of the country.

Afterwards, the presentation was delivered by Shri Alex Varghese, IAS, District Collector of Alappuzha, Kerala. Vembanad Lake, the longest lake in India stretching nearly 90 km and the largest in Kerala with an expanse of 230 sq. km, was highlighted as a Ramsar site of international importance. The lake, into which six major rivers flow, was described as a lifeline for biodiversity, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. However, it was observed that alarming degradation had occurred due to siltation, encroachment, pollution, plastic waste, and unchecked proliferation of water hyacinth. It was informed that over the years, the lake area was reduced from 290.85 sq. km in 1917 to 213 sq. km by 1990, while fish diversity and production declined drastically.

Shri Alex highlighted that the ecological challenges faced by the Kuttanad region, located adjacent to the lake and famously known as the "Rice Bowl of Kerala," were also described. It was noted that agriculture in this region is practiced 1–3 meters below sea level, making it unique but also highly vulnerable. Declining soil quality, flooding, salinity intrusion, and increasing health risks were outlined as serious threats.

Fisheries were reported to have fallen from 23,000 tonnes in the 1970s to about 4,500 tonnes in recent years, while fish species diversity declined from 149 to 81.

The negative impacts of man-made interventions such as the Thanneermukkam Barrage (commissioned in 1976) and the Thottappally Spillway (1955) were underlined. Although these structures were built to prevent salinity intrusion and flooding, counterproductive consequences were observed in the form of reduced water flushing, rise in pollution, and decline in fisheries and cropping intensity.

Shri Alex highlighted that for rejuvenation of the lake, an adaptive and multi-pronged strategy was proposed. Eight expert subcommittees were constituted to recommend interventions, which were later reviewed and finalized. Various innovative measures were introduced, such as the construction of mangrove bio-shields to prevent tidal and river flooding, bio-bunds using dredged silt for shoreline protection, and diversion projects to ensure smooth water flow and control salinity levels. Installation of sluice gates, dredging of canals and river mouths, and the use of pollution indicators were also suggested to maintain water quality.

Community-centric solutions were promoted through integrated farming systems, such as the combination of rice, fish, duck, and vegetable cultivation, along with floating raft agriculture using water hyacinth. Climate-resilient crops like Pokkali rice and Swamp Taro were recommended. Household-level innovations such as utilizing kitchen waste for tank fish culture and vegetable farming were also encouraged.

Additionally, value-added opportunities such as branded organic manure from nutrient-rich silt, cage fish farming, and products from water hyacinth (like manure, cattle

feed, and paper) were proposed to improve livelihoods while simultaneously addressing ecological concerns. Branding of products under the FAO-recognized Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) tag was envisioned to enhance market potential.

During session, Shri Alex informed that the expected outcomes of the rejuvenation project were emphasized. Restoration of Vembanad Lake was projected to revive ecological balance, ensure livelihood security for farmers and fishers, improve flood control, and enhance cultural and tourism value. It was underscored that the lake, once restored, would benefit people, nature, and the economy alike.

It was informed that the project was further strengthened with the support of knowledge partners, including Kerala University of Fisheries & Oceanic Studies, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, IIT Bombay, NIT Calicut, CUSAT, State Wetland Authority Kerala, and international partners like TU Delft University, Netherlands.

Shri Alex emphasized that through this comprehensive approach, the rejuvenation of Vembanad Lake was showcased as an exemplary model of adaptive, community-based, and sustainable water management that integrates environmental restoration with livelihood enhancement.

The session concluded with closing remarks by the AS&MD, who acknowledged the commendable efforts of Shri Alex and Shri Rajesh in the rejuvenation of Vembanad Lake and the Noon River, respectively. She also reiterated the crucial role of District Magistrates in advancing the National Water Mission through active community participation.



49TH EDITION OF DIALOGUE WITH DISTRICT MAGISTRATES (DMs)



The session began with an introduction to the 49th Edition of Water Series Webinar on Best Practice of Water Management - Dialogues with DMs, jointly organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the District Magistrates (DMs) and all the participants of Dialogue with DMs.

AS and MD emphasized the importance of community participation. She recalled Dr. Arun's statement, "Change begins at home," and noted that the efforts of Shri Rizwanbasha truly reflect the spirit of community engagement, which plays a vital role in water conservation. She further underlined the Hon'ble Prime Minister's conviction that any movement achieves success only when it is driven by community participation. Once communities recognize their responsibility, the movement becomes significantly more effective.

AS and MD reiterated the Hon'ble Prime Minister's belief in the Whole of Society and Whole of Government approach. She emphasized that the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative, launched on 6th September 2024, is carrying this mantra of community participation forward. The initiative, she noted, is built on three key principles – community, cost, and conservation.

AS and MD pointed out that individuals often feel helpless in conserving water, especially when considering that only 1,126 BCM of water is available while the demand is projected to reach 1,180 BCM by 2050. AS and

MD emphasized that even small efforts can create a significant impact on the nation's water conservation. It was further noted that India is already a water-stressed country, where per capita water availability has declined drastically from about 5,000 cubic meters in the 1950s to nearly 1,700 cubic meters today.

AS and MD also observed that the true importance of water has not been adequately understood, and it is only now that its value is being realized. It was noted that in western India there is greater enthusiasm for Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, as people there are more aware of water scarcity, whereas in eastern India, wastage of water continues at a significant level. During the 1960s, when the Green Revolution began in Punjab, water availability was not considered a challenge. However, excessive groundwater extraction gradually led to depletion. While food security was achieved, the unintended consequence of the Green Revolution was a severe decline in groundwater resources.

AS & MD further highlighted the crucial role that District Magistrates (DMs), Chief Development Officers (CDOs) and panchayats play in the success of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. She emphasized that the leadership, initiative and active engagement of these local officers are essential for the campaign's effectiveness at the grassroots level. While the NWM provides guidance and support for water conservation efforts, the ultimate success of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan relies heavily on the commitment and strategic actions of DMs and CDOs, who are responsible for coordinating various water conservation initiatives, ensuring their proper implementation and mobilizing local

communities to achieve tangible results, even without direct financial backing from the NWM.

Afterwards, the initiatives taken up in Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan, were presented by Dr. Arun Garg, District Magistrate. The focus was placed on the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign and the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) movement.

Dr. Arun highlighted that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched in 2019 and has been implemented annually across the country. Its fifth edition was started on 9th March 2024 under the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti." The JSJB program, designed as a participatory model, was introduced in Gujarat in September 2024 and later adopted in several states including Rajasthan. In Jhunjhunu, the initiative was carried out in 11 blocks, covering 330 Gram Panchayats, 976 villages, one Nagar Parishad, and 18 Nagar Palikas.

It was highlighted that a wide range of interventions was undertaken. Water conservation and rainwater harvesting works were executed, which included check dams, ponds, tanks, trenches, and rooftop harvesting structures. Traditional water bodies were renovated, while reuse and recharge systems such as soak pits and stabilization ponds were installed. Watershed development activities such as percolation tanks and gully plugs were implemented, and large-scale afforestation programs were carried out. In total, 1,764 works were completed, while 484 works remained ongoing.

The significance of water harvesting during the previous year was also emphasized. Structures such as Amrit Sarovars, anicuts, johads, khadins, talabs, and tankas were created or rejuvenated, resulting in conservation of over 41.24 crore litres of water across the district. More than 3,800 water harvesting works were implemented, strengthening groundwater recharge and agricultural resilience.

During his presentation, Dr. Arun highlighted that the campaign Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jan Abhiyan was launched across Rajasthan on 5th June 2025, coinciding with World Environment Day. Under this initiative, cleaning of 2,308 water bodies, 1,485 IEC campaigns, 491 puja ceremonies of water bodies, and 455 shramdaan activities on community lands were carried out in Jhunjhunu. Mass participation of civil society, NGOs, and CSR groups was encouraged to make water conservation a people's movement.

It was informed that special emphasis was placed on intensive afforestation. More than 10.26 lakh saplings were planted across different blocks of the district, covering over 2,600 hectares of land. Nurseries were developed, plantations were raised, and expenditure worth ₹388.99 lakhs was incurred for this initiative. The Mukhyamantri Vriksharopan Mahabhiyan – Hariyalo Rajasthan

campaign also contributed significantly, with 26 lakh saplings planted under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam."

Various natural resource management activities were undertaken under MGNREGA, including the construction of farm ponds, percolation tanks, earthen dams, and talabs. Tankas with artificial catchments were created for community and individual use. Nurseries and plantations with drip irrigation were promoted to ensure sustainability.

Dr. Arun highlighted community participation as a key factor. Pledges were taken by villagers under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative, and activities such as shramdaan, tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and awareness workshops were carried out with the involvement of public representatives, government officials, NGOs, and local citizens. It was demonstrated that water conservation could be achieved effectively when collective action was ensured.

The impacts of earlier interventions were also documented. Large tracts of wasteland were converted into horticulture plantations under watershed projects, improving productivity and livelihoods. Groundwater resources were observed to be rising. Data revealed an upward trend in the annual extractable groundwater resource across various blocks between 2021 and 2024, reflecting the positive results of sustained efforts.

Dr. Arun emphasized that through these interventions, Jhunjhunu district has showcased how traditional wisdom, modern techniques, and mass participation can be integrated to address water scarcity. It was underlined that the district's model demonstrates the potential of community-driven water conservation, aligning with the broader goals of water security, ecological restoration, and sustainable development.

Afterwards, the case of Jangaon District in Telangana was presented by Shri Rizwanbasha Shaik, District Magistrate Jangaon. The initiative "Mana Zilla – Mana Neeru" (Our District – Our Water Campaign) was highlighted, with special focus on the Low-Cost Community Soakpit Campaign, inspired by Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0.

Shri Rizwanbasha highlighted that Jangaon district, a recently formed district carved out of erstwhile Warangal, was described with its 2 revenue divisions, 12 mandals, 281 Gram Panchayats, and a population of 7.52 lakhs. Water conservation initiatives were earlier implemented through schemes such as MGNREGA, Mission Kakatiya, and the Devadula Lift Irrigation Project. Under JSJB 1.0, more than 34,000 water conservation and recharge works had been completed and geo-tagged, and tanks were rejuvenated through desiltation.

Shri Rizwanbasha explained that the Low-Cost Soakpit Campaign was as an innovative step in which government departments were mobilized first. It was stressed that

water conservation was not a subject limited to technical departments, but rather a responsibility of every institution and community. To begin the campaign, all government offices, along with public representatives, were trained at the District Collectorate Complex. Weekly reviews were conducted every Monday, ensuring accountability and monitoring.

Shri Rizwanbasha further explained that a bottom-up approach was adopted. Training was extended to mandal officers, gram panchayat staff, self-help groups, community coordinators, MGNREGA field assistants, ASHAs, ANMs, linemen, shop dealers, rice mill owners, agricultural extension officers, and others. Through this inclusive participation, a target of 5,000 soakpits was set for July 2025. Within 20 days, 7,175 soakpits were constructed, surpassing the target.

The design of the soakpit was further described in detail during presentation. Pits of 1x1 metre were dug and filled with layers of gravel of different sizes, ensuring effective water percolation. Costs were kept low, ranging from ₹600 to ₹1,500 per soakpit, with materials sourced from leftover construction sites, dilapidated buildings, housing schemes, and local contributions.

It was informed that the campaign was taken up across multiple departments. In schools, hostels, and educational institutions, more than 1,100 soakpits were constructed, benefiting over 7,500 students. In Panchayat Raj institutions, more than 2,800 soakpits were created, motivating nearly 1.5 lakh villagers. Anganwadis, SHG community halls, health centres, veterinary hospitals, police stations, agriculture offices, electricity substations, and fisheries cooperatives were also covered. Every department was brought under the initiative, proving that water conservation could be institutionalized beyond traditional agencies.

During presentation, Shri Rizwanbasha informed that parallel water conservation works were also undertaken. More than 77 tanks were rejuvenated, 1,332 staggered trenches, 640 percolation tanks, 484 farm ponds, and nearly 28,879 soakpits were created under convergence programs. Plantation drives were carried out with survival

rates above 95%, while groundwater levels showed a rising trend of more than 1 metre annually.

It was informed that significant agricultural benefits were recorded. With increased irrigation availability, record paddy cultivation was achieved: 2.11 lakh acres in Vanakalam (Kharif) 2024 and 1.9 lakh acres in Yasangi (Rabi) 2024–25. Procurement worth more than ₹380 crores was made possible. Micro-irrigation was expanded to nearly 8,800 acres, benefiting 2,653 farmers. Fisheries also flourished, with around 85,000–90,000 people engaged and market opportunities worth ₹300–350 crores identified.

Shri Rizwanbasha emphasized that the campaign was positioned as a people's movement, demonstrating that soakpits could be constructed at minimal cost with locally available materials. It was stressed that awareness had been spread across all departments and communities, reinforcing the principle that water conservation is a collective responsibility.

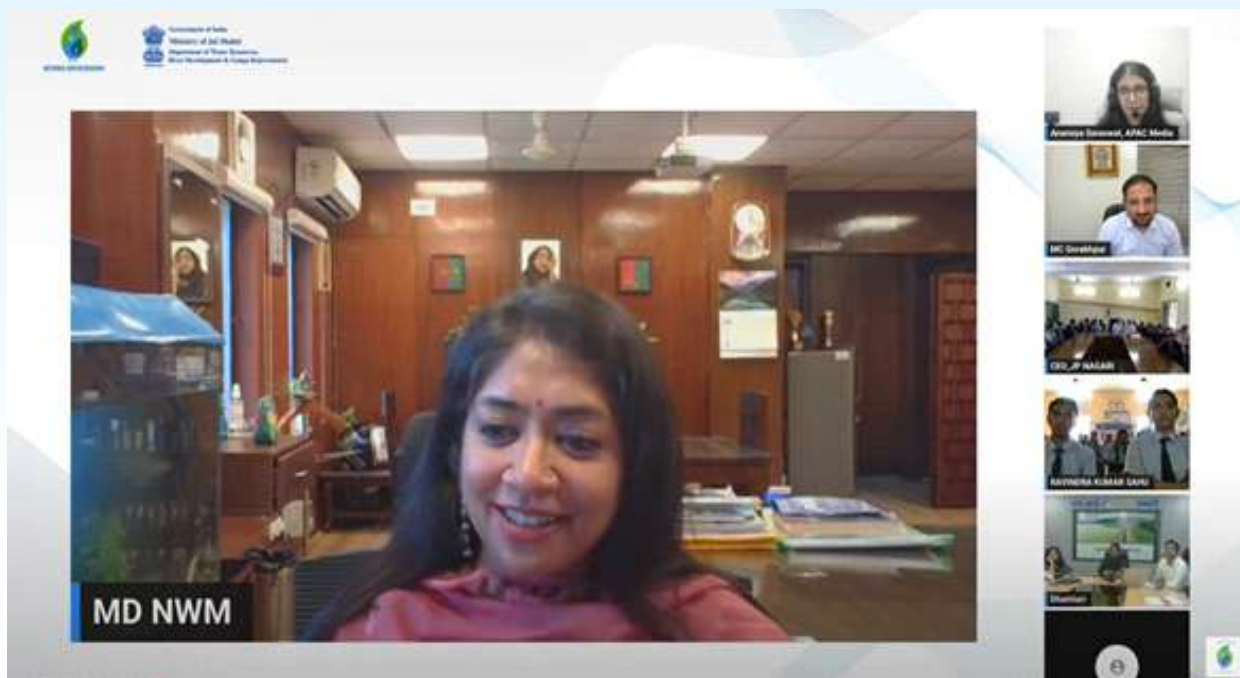
It was informed by Shri Rizwanbasha that, the district administration planned to engage progressive farmers, elected representatives, alumni groups, SHG women, and remaining households to ensure universal coverage of soakpits. The aim was to align the campaign with Sustainable Development Goals and demonstrate a replicable, low-cost, and scalable model of water conservation for other regions.

The initiative of Jangaon district was thus showcased as a successful case where institutional leadership, community participation, and low-cost technology were integrated, resulting in effective water management and livelihood improvement.

The session concluded with the closing remarks of the AS&MD, who appreciated the commendable contributions of Dr. Arun and Shri Rizwanbasha in their respective districts. She highlighted the pivotal role of communities, particularly women, in driving the mission forward at the grassroots level, while also underscoring the critical responsibility of District Magistrates in advancing the National Water Mission through active community engagement.



50TH EDITION OF DIALOGUE WITH DISTRICT MAGISTRATES (DMs)(HALF-CENTURY COMPLETED)



The session began with an introduction to the 50th Edition of Water Series Webinar on Best Practice of Water Management - Dialogues with DMs, organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR held on 15th September 2025. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the District Magistrates (DMs) of Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh), CEO of Zila Panchayat, Dhamtari and all the participants of Dialogue with DMs.

At the outset, AS & MD welcomed the District Magistrates, alongside school students, to mark a truly special occasion: the 50th edition of "Dialogue with DMs". She underscored the importance of water by quoting W. H. Auden, "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water," emphasizing how essential water is to life. She then warned of the escalating toll of climate change—explaining that while climate shifts have long occurred naturally, today's changes are driven in large part by human activity (what scientists term anthropogenic climate change). She also reiterated the need for safe disposal of plastic waste—particularly non-biodegradable snack-packet plastics, which fragments into microplastics that infiltrate soil and eventually contaminate the food chain.

AS & MD underlined how the National Water Mission (NWM) is playing a vital, multifaceted role—in water conservation, river rejuvenation, and in tackling urban flooding. She highlighted two flagship campaigns under it: Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, which emphasize rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge structures, geo-tagging of water bodies, aorestation, district-level knowledge centres, and broad public participation. She invoked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "water-secure India," invoking

his clarion call for "Jan Andolan" for "Jal Andolan" requiring a whole-of- government and whole-of-society approach.

AS & MD urged the students to become Jal Doots—to spread awareness in their schools, families, and neighbourhoods about the importance of water and the need to conserve it. She encouraged them to speak up and ask their parents and school authorities to install rooftop rainwater harvesting structures. She explained that even a simple recharge pit can help, and that in many places such pits cost far less than ₹5,000. She also encouraged students to test water quality using modern, compact test kits available in the market.

Shri Gaurav Singh Sogarwal, Municipal Commissioner of Gorakhpur, spoke about the city's acute vulnerability to urban and riverine flooding—due to its terrain, location at

the confluence of the Rapti and Rohini, weak drainage, and irregular maintenance. To address this, he informed that he had established the Urban Flood Management Cell (UFMC), which is implementing structural and non-structural responses to improve resilience.

Shri Gaurav shared that, on the structural front, pump stations were upgraded, new mobile pumps introduced, sump wells built, and DG backups installed—each site moving to self-priming pumps—with a total investment of ₹30.49 crores. On the non-structural side, a centralized Urban Flood Management System was launched to integrate rainfall and water-level data, enabling real-time flood forecasting through hydrological/hydraulic models, alongside automation of stormwater pumping via SCADA.

Shri Gaurav highlighted that an extensive drainage survey was conducted using DGPS and LiDAR DEM techniques. Community participation was encouraged by including local councillors in identifying hotspots and points of interest. Nearly 9,752 survey points were recorded and drainage mapping was digitised. Altogether, 14 primary, 149 secondary, and 138 tertiary drains were brought under the flood prediction model.

It was informed that Gorakhpur identified 28 waterlogging hotspots and deployed targeted mitigation, supported by a grievance redressal system via helpline and app. In May 2025, the Urban Flood Monitoring and Control Center (UFMC) became operational, integrating monitoring, analysis, and emergency response under “Predict, Prepare, Protect,” with an Early Warning System and Decision Support System. Hyperlocal AI rainfall forecasts, digital-twin waterlogging predictions, 110 automated water-level recorders, and 21 automated pumping stations enable proactive flood management, coordinated 24×7 with multiple agencies.

It was further highlighted by Shri Gaurav that a Comprehensive Storm Water Drainage Master Plan is being prepared, under which blue-green infrastructure, urban pond rejuvenation, and drain connectivity are planned. Nature-based solutions and gravity-based outfall points are also being explored. The future plan highlighted aimed at complete implementation of the drainage master plan, with UFMC being developed as a complete repository for urban water management.

Shri Gaurav highlighted Gorakhpur’s progress in flood resilience, with faster waterlogging clearance, reduced pump costs, and complete pre-monsoon drain

cleaning. Over 70% of citizen complaints were promptly addressed, aided by automated pumping and improved inter-agency coordination. Accurate forecasts and efficient operations saved fuel, energy, and manpower.

The city received national and international recognition, including the Global WaterTech Award 2025, becoming a model for other urban centres.

Afterwards, District Magistrate Shri Abinash Mishra presented the “Mahanadi Awakening Abhiyan” (MAA), highlighting the river’s critical role for Chhattisgarh and Odisha in irrigation, power, drinking water, and ecological balance. Shri Abinash highlighted that the Mahanadi Awakening Abhiyan, inaugurated on 2nd May 2025 at Karneshwar Ghat, aims to restore the river, protect the environment, conserve water, and promote tourism and heritage. The 18 km campaign, covering 8 Gram Panchayats, involves extensive community participation, including Gram Sarpanchs, SHGs, NGOs, and villagers through shramdaan, and aligns with the state’s “Mor Gaon, Mor Paani” program.

It was emphasized by Shri Abinash that awareness activities were undertaken through posters, invitations, and information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns. Villagers were mobilised to contribute through physical labour, which resulted in large-scale participation. Before-and-after comparisons were presented to demonstrate the impact of river cleaning and conservation efforts.

Shri Abinash also emphasized that in addition to desilting and cleaning operations, new community ponds were created, drainage lines were identified and restored, and attractive paintings were installed at the origin of the river to spread awareness. A major plantation drive was undertaken, during which more than 4,500 coconut trees were planted in the project area, along with the distribution of saplings. Various water conservation work was carried out. It was informed that few structural work was also undertaken in Pharshiya where a new community pond was created. Check dams and other structures are also being formed.

Shri Abinash explained that the 12-km river stretch was divided into 1-km segments, each managed by local SHGs and PRIs to foster ownership. Tourism-oriented riverbank rejuvenation, stone painting, and the planting of 4,500 coconut saplings for future livelihood were undertaken, alongside workshops on sustainable agriculture. A ₹8-crore convergence plan included community nurseries, watershed works, pond desilting, sericulture, training for youth and women, and fishery development in 48 ponds. Tools like the Jaldoot app and CLART maps were used to strengthen groundwater monitoring and planning.

Shri Abinash highlighted that Phase 1 of the Mahanadi Awakening Abhiyan desilted and cleaned 12 km of the river, engaged over 5,000 volunteers, and planted 5,000 coconut trees, significantly improving the river’s

ecosystem. Phase 2 aims to develop the river's origin into a tourism hub with enhanced infrastructure, an ₹6 crore anicut project, expanded irrigation, and water-conservation initiatives, providing employment for over 5,000 youth and women while promoting ecological conservation and sustainable development.

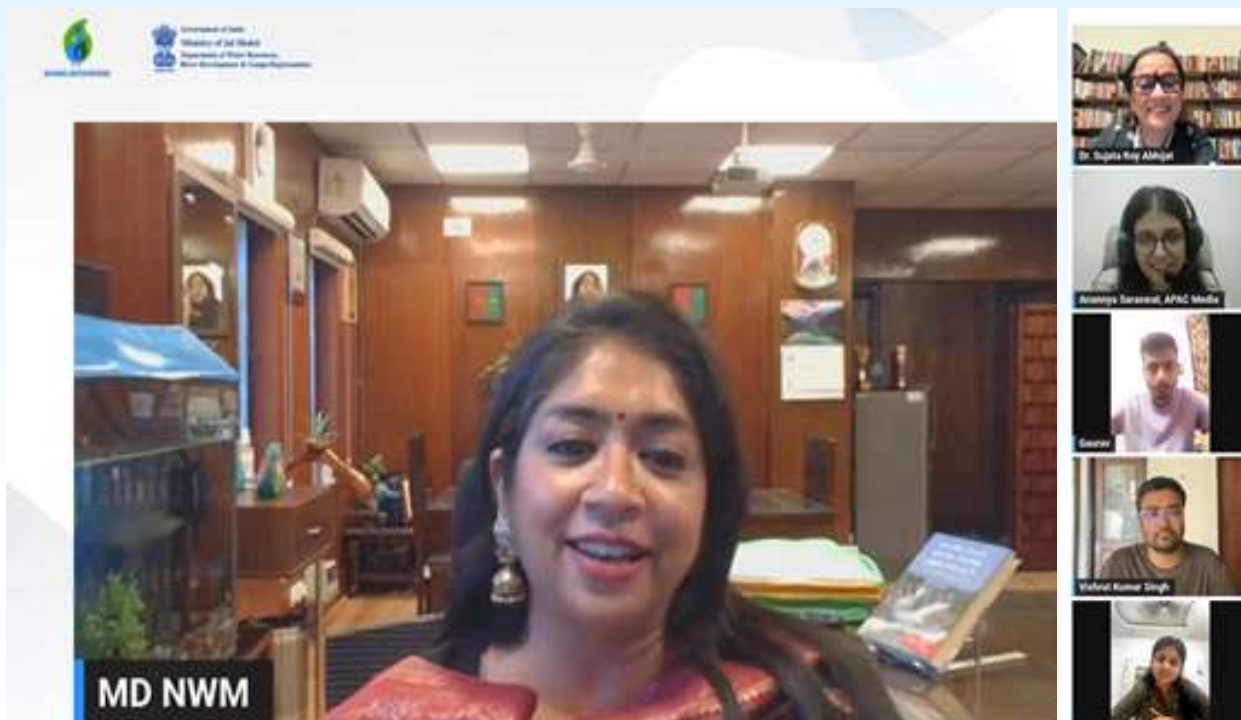
In the Q&A session, AS & MD responded to students' questions on water conservation in agriculture, explaining central schemes like PMKSY – Per Drop More Crop, which expand irrigation access and promote micro-irrigation methods

(drip, sprinkler) to improve water use efficiency. She urged crop diversification toward millets and horticulture

instead of water-intensive staples, and described how Krishi Vigyan Kendras recommend hybrid farming and other agronomic innovations.

AS&MD also stressed the role of soil health in reducing irrigation needs and introduced the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) and its initiatives such as Sahi Fasal, which encourage crops suited to local agro-climatic conditions. Further, she explained water footprint (the total water used to produce goods) and water audits—for instance, reusing RO-wastewater and fixing leaks—to show how everyday choices and systems can significantly reduce water consumption.

62nd Edition of Water Talk



The session began with an introduction to the 62nd edition of the 'Water Talk' series, jointly organized by the National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, held on 22nd September 2025. Miss Anannya Saraswat of APAC News Network extended a warm welcome to Ms. Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director of National Water Mission, NWM, the speaker and all attendees. She emphasized the significance of the Water Talk series as a platform for knowledge-sharing on water use efficiency and conservation.

AS&MD highlighted that this session uniquely focused on the ethics of water, shifting attention from technical aspects to its moral and cultural significance. Quoting W. H. Auden "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water", she emphasized water as essential to life, noting that Indian civilization has long revered it.

AS&MD highlighted India's water scarcity, with only 1,126 bcm of freshwater available and demand projected to reach 1,180 bcm by 2050, raising concerns about sourcing the additional 56 bcm. She emphasized that the National Water Mission aims to restore respect for water, grounding it in ethics, and stressed the need to prevent river pollution—such as plastic waste—which harms both rivers and human health, given that humans are composed of nearly 70% water.

AS&MD emphasized the need to relearn the reverence

for water that has been deeply rooted in Indian tradition. It was noted that not only in India, but across civilizations such as the Babylonian and others rivers like the Nile and the Ganga formed the cradle of human settlement. She highlighted civilizations were established along river courses, yet those natural courses were never altered to suit human needs. In contrast, today rivers are being encroached upon, floodplains are being disregarded, and the natural balance is being disturbed. This, she observed, is the reason for the increasing devastation, as rivers attempt to reclaim their rightful territories. It was further stressed that while rivers can exist without human beings, humanity cannot survive without rivers or without water itself.

AS&MD further emphasized the unique aspect of advancing the idea of water ethics. She observed that if an ethical perspective towards water is developed, it can significantly influence human behavior and attitudes. Water should not be viewed merely as a service delivered through pipelines, but rather with the same reverence accorded to places of worship such as temples, mosques, and gurudwaras. That same sense of respect, she stressed, must be reclaimed for water.

Afterwards, a presentation on "Water Ethics and Philosophy: An Indian Perspective" was delivered by Dr. Sujata Roy Abhijat, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi. A comprehensive view on

the interrelationship between water, ethics, and philosophy from Indian as well as Western perspectives was shared.

Dr. Sujata emphasized that in Indian philosophy, a holistic perspective has always been maintained, where nature and humanity are considered inseparable. The traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism were highlighted, in which reverence for nature has been practiced and nature has been regarded as sacred. It was explained that human identity itself was believed to be shaped by the environment, with ecological sustainability interwoven with spiritual practices. In contrast, Western thought was described as anthropocentric, with nature treated as separate from humans and subordinated to human needs. Christianity was noted for introducing a dualism between humans and nature, with dominion over natural resources being justified.

Dr. Sujata also underlined distinction between Indian and Western traditions. In Indian scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and the Bhagavad Gita, nature was depicted as sacred and worthy of protection. She highlighted that duties towards the environment were deeply embedded within philosophical teachings, while rivers, forests, and mountains were treated as sacred entities. By contrast, Western environmentalism was described as a reactive movement that emerged only after ecological crises caused by industrialization.

During presentation, special attention was given to the Vedic perspective on water. According to the Rigveda, it was stated that before creation, only water existed, and from water, life itself originated. Water was described in the Satapatha Brahmana as the first creation, from which all elements arose. Sacred rivers were granted maternal status in Indian tradition, and the significance of rainwater was acknowledged in ancient agricultural texts such as Krishiparashara. She further informed that conservation of water sources and prevention of pollution were emphasized in the Vedas and Yajurveda, where water was treated as pure and indestructible.

Dr. Sujata further explained the dual nature of water as both terrestrial and celestial. On Earth, water was viewed

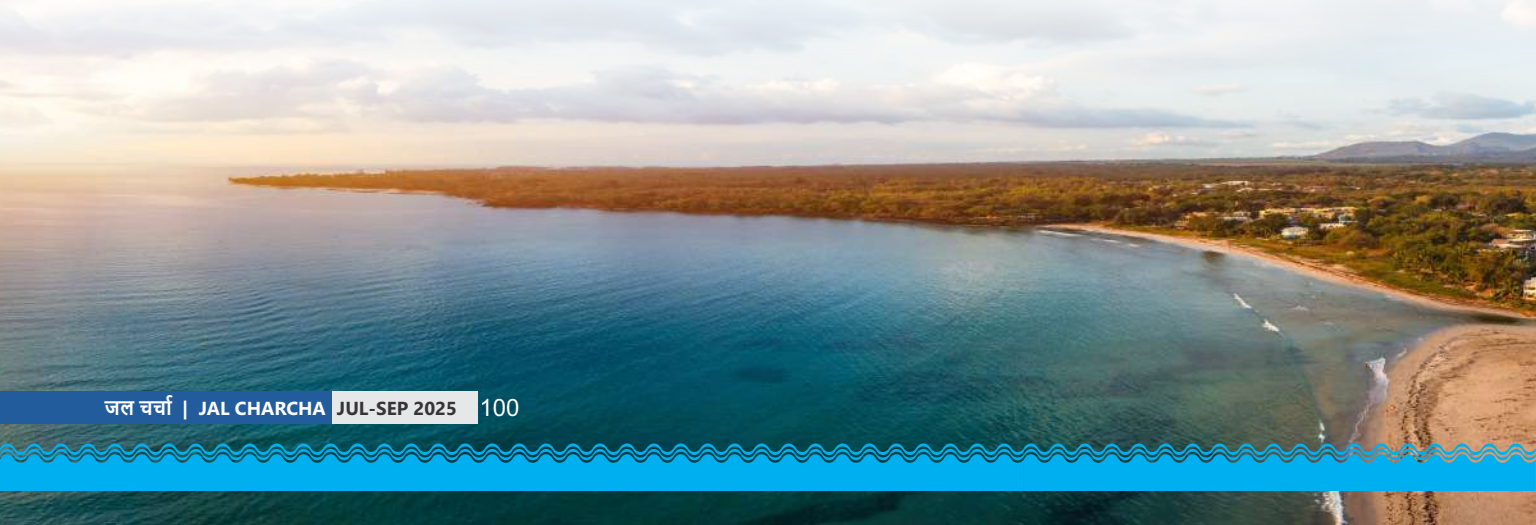
as life-giving through rivers, lakes, and oceans, while in the celestial realm, it was associated with rain, clouds, and cosmic vapours. This duality was presented as a reconciliation of the physical and the spiritual.

The spiritual and medicinal significance of water was also underlined. In Hindu traditions, no ritual was performed without water, and the samskaras were closely linked with it. Water was regarded as nectar in the Sushruta Samhita, capable of healing, purifying, and sustaining life. Philosophical teachings portrayed water as both sacred and medicinal, essential for health and spirituality alike.

During the session, Dr. Sujata also shared perspectives from Buddhism and Jainism. In Buddhism, water was described as a symbol of purity and impermanence, while in Jain philosophy, water was believed to contain countless life forms and therefore needed to be protected under the principle of ahimsa. The interconnectedness of life, expressed as *parasparopagraho jivanam*, was highlighted as a guiding ethic. Gandhian principles of trusteeship were also invoked, where humanity was viewed as a caretaker rather than an owner of natural resources.

During her presentation, indigenous water systems such as *johads*, *baolis*, and *talabs* were also recalled as examples of community-led, ethics-driven water management. It was highlighted that responsibility for these systems was shared by communities, demonstrating humility and respect toward natural cycles.

The session concluded with AS&MD noting it as a highly engaging discussion, offering insights that could inform policy, emphasizing that water should be viewed not only ethically but also as a driver of growth and development, balancing ecology and development priorities. The Hon'ble PMs "4 R Mantra" of reduce, reuse, recycle, recharge, — were highlighted with addition of 5th R - Respect, alongside highlighting educational initiatives taken by MoE like incorporating water in the school curriculum, expanding the Jal Doot program from Assam to pan India for school children as water champions, MoUs with NGOs working with school children, and workshops promoting sustainable and mindful water use in daily life in line with Hon'ble PMs vision of Mission LiFE.



INVITATION TO 150 SARPANCHES TO PARTICIPATE IN FLAG HOSTING CEREMONY AT RED FORT ON 15TH AUGUST 2025



On the occasion of 79th Independence Day celebration 2025, 150 Sarpanches along with their spouses have been invited to participate in Flag Hosting Ceremony at Red Fort on 15th August 2025. These Sarpanches have been selected for their exceptional contribution to building the nation and securing India's future by conserving water and making Swachh Sujal Gaon a reality led from the grassroots.

On 14th August 2025, Ministry of Jal Shakti hosts Sarpanches for a special interaction, recognising their role in building healthier, self-reliant villages. Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna interacted with over 150 Sarpanches. Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary Department of Water Resources and River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Shri Ashok K K Meena, Secretary Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and other senior officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were also present at the event.

Interacting with Sarpanches, the Union Minister of state for Railways and Jal Shakti, Shri V Somanna underscored that "Our sarpanches and VWSC members are the real changemakers who ensure that government programmes translate into visible improvements in people's lives. Their leadership and dedication inspire us to work harder towards the goal of Swachh Sujal Gaon

which will be the cornerstone for a Viksit and Jal Samridh Bharat. As we celebrate Independence Day, it is only fitting that we honour those who are securing our villages' future with clean water, sanitation, and sustainable practices."

Secretary DoWR, Smt. Debashree Mukherjee said, "Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our sarpanches and pradhans under Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Catch the Rain, over-exploited groundwater blocks have declined significantly - from around 17% in 2017 to just about 11% in 2024. This marks a major stride toward water security. Our sarpanches are true water ambassadors and warriors, steering our communities toward a resilient future despite the mounting challenges of climate change. Together, by using water with awareness and care, we can safeguard this precious resource for generations to come."

During interaction some of the Sarpanches also shared their inspirational grass-root level innovations and success stories. The interaction session with Sarpanches from Gujarat (Shashikant Patel), Madhya Pradesh (Lakshita Dagar) Kerala (Sheeba), Uttar Pradesh (Sunita Yadav), Chhattisgarh (Sh. Nagendra Bhagat), and Andhra Pradesh (Sampurna) was very vibrant and engaging, showcasing how local leadership is shaping the success of initiatives across the country.

Screenings of short films on flagship initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Namami Gange (NMCG), Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari (JSJB), and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) were also organised.

On the eve of Independence Day 2025, Booklet (Voices from Field) “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, 2025” was also released. This booklet profiles Sarpanches from across States and Union Territories who have set inspiring examples through community participation, innovation and tireless commitment. Their stories prove that when villages take ownership of their water future, the results are transformative. It also highlights the work of women who have shown exemplary leadership under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, taking forward the message of ‘Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti’.

These distinguished grassroots leaders have spearheaded the implementation of the Government’s flagship initiatives—Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to deliver safe and sufficient drinking water to every rural

household via functional tap connections; Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), mobilizing local communities to conserve, harvest, and recharge water through rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional water bodies, watershed development, reuse, and intensive afforestation; Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), driving the transformation of villages into Open Defecation-Free (ODF) areas and advancing toward ODF-Plus communities; and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB), which galvanizes participatory governance and grassroots ownership in reviving and safeguarding water resources.

Through their leadership, these Sarpanches are reviving rivers and ponds, conserving every drop of rain, improving rural health and hygiene, and inspiring communities to take ownership of their resources. They are not only conserving water, but they are also safeguarding India’s ecological heritage and securing a prosperous, resilient, and self-reliant future for generations to come. This event is a salute to India’s new-age Nation Builders.



CSMRS 2025

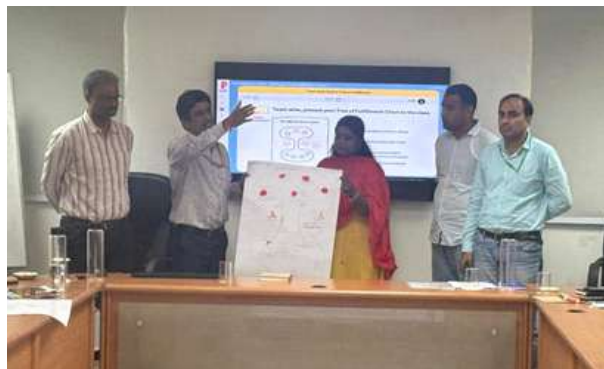
CSMRS concrete team visited Polavaram Irrigation Project, Andhra Pradesh from 17th to 21st August 2025 for carrying out inspection and Quality Audit for ongoing construction works of New Diaphragm Wall under ECRF Dam In Gap-II of Polavaram Head Works, Andhra Pradesh.



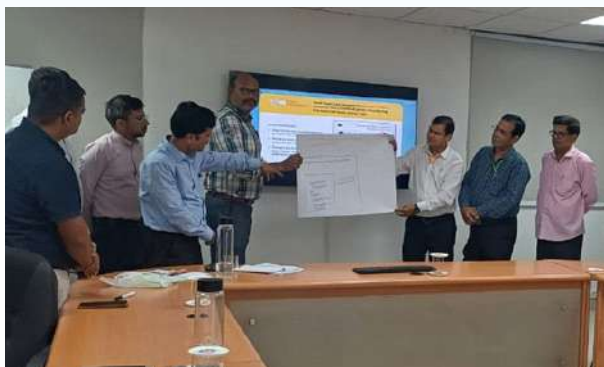
National Sports Day Celebration at CSMRS New Delhi on 29.08.2025



As a part of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Program , the second batch of CSMRS Officers and Staff were trained by CSMRS Master Trainers on 20.08.2025.



As a part of the Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Program, the first batch of CSMRS Officers and Staff were trained by CSMRS Master Trainers on 19.08.2025.



CSMRS concrete team visited Vishnugad Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project (4×111 MW), Uttarakhand from 07.07.25 to 11.07.25 for providing service related to QA/QC of civil works of the project.



A two day training course on 'Dam Safety Evaluation using Geophysical Techniques' is being organised by CSMRS during 21-22 August, 2025. A total of 42 participants from different organisations are attending this training course.



Celebrating 78 years of independence at CSMRS.



हर घर तिरंगा अभियान के अंतर्गत, सीएसएमआरएस अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों ने 12.08.2025 को तिरंगा यात्रा में भाग लिया।



As a part of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, CSMRS Officers and Staff participated in Tiranga Yatra on 12.08.2025



Today on 4th July 2025, CSMRS has signed the MoU with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Technological Collaboration on Geotechnical Investigation for Tunnel Projects on National Highways.



National Workshop on 'Adaptation Planning for India's Water Sector under Climate Change'



Inauguration of two-day national workshop

Introduction & Workshop Background

The National Workshop on Adaptation Planning for India's Water Sector under Climate Change, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was held on 21–22 August 2025 at Hyatt Place, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. This two-day event was organized by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, under the aegis of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The workshop was convened in the context of India's strategic commitment to developing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), in alignment with global mandates under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and the Paris Agreement. As per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all countries are expected to prepare their NAPs by 2025 and implement them by 2030. Within this framework, the water sector has emerged as a critical priority due to its

deep interlinkages with agriculture, energy, public health, and livelihoods. In response to this pressing need and urgency, the Additional Secretary & MD, National Water Mission under DoWR, RD & GR has been designated as the nodal officer for adaptation planning in the water sector. NIH Roorkee, serving as the anchoring institute, is leading the technical and strategic coordination of this vital national initiative.

India's vulnerability to climate-induced water challenges is intensifying, with increasing occurrences of floods, droughts, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, cyclones, coastal inundation, and sea level rise. These physical hazards are compounded by the need to address cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, disability inclusion, and social equity—making adaptation planning not only a technical imperative but also a social one. In response to these multifaceted challenges, the workshop was designed to convene leading scientists, policymakers, practitioners, private institutions, and civil society stakeholders to deliberate on adaptation



priorities and strategies for the water sector. It provided a collaborative platform to explore evidence-based approaches, integrate traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific insights, and co-develop actionable roadmaps for short-, medium-, and long-term adaptation planning through 2035.

Invited Guests and Dignitaries

The inaugural session was graced by a distinguished panel of dignitaries, including Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra,



IAS, Executive Director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), who served as the Chief Guest; Dr. Y.R.S. Rao, Director, NIH Roorkee; Mr. Shiv Mohan Dixit, Advisor (Technical), National Water Mission and Mrs. Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The technical sessions featured eminent moderators and panelists from premier institutions such as IITs, NITs, NIH, ICAR, CGWB, RMSI, WIHG, IMD, INCOIS, Pvt. Organizations, and leading NGOs.



Integrated Strategies for Flood Risk Reduction and Adaptive Water Governance

Discussions underscored the need to move beyond conventional flood control methods toward integrated, nature-based and data-driven solutions. Emphasis was placed on harmonizing urban planning with hydrological realities, improving inter-agency coordination, and exploring public-private models that combine infrastructure with social benefit.



Drought Risk Management and Adaptation in a Changing Climate



Experts called for a shift from reactive drought relief to proactive resilience. Long-term village-level pilots, smart irrigation technologies, and economic incentives were discussed as pathways to sustainable water use. The importance of aligning with national schemes and leveraging digital platforms for early warnings and governance was highlighted.

Adaptation to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)

The fragile Himalayan ecosystem demands urgent attention. Sessions focused on advanced monitoring of glacial lakes, community-based preparedness, and the integration of multiple hazard data streams. A vision for a dedicated national research and coordination center was shared to support long-term adaptation.



Mitigating Rainfall-Induced Landslide Hazards



Rainfall-induced landslides pose growing threats in hilly regions. Strengthening early warning systems, revising land-use planning, and empowering local response teams were central themes. Technology-driven hazard mapping and community drills were seen as key to shifting from relief to preparedness.

Cyclone-Resilient Water Infrastructure and Risk Mitigation Approaches

Improving cyclone prediction and building robust water infrastructure were focal points. Discussions included the role of AI in impact-based forecasting, resilient design standards, and multifunctional urban spaces. Governance models emphasized unified communication and leveraging private sector expertise.



Adaptive Responses to Coastal Flooding and Sea Level Rise



Coastal communities face compounding risks from rising seas, salinity, and erosion. Integrated monitoring, hybrid engineering-nature solutions, and community participation were explored. The roadmap spans climate-resilient agriculture, eco-tourism, and large-scale restoration efforts

Mainstreaming GEDSI in Water Sector Adaptation

No adaptation strategy is complete without addressing gender, disability, and social inclusion. Sessions highlighted the need for disaggregated data, community ownership, and infrastructure standards that reflect diverse needs. A new participatory model Public, Private, Community Partnership was discussed to ensure equitable outcomes.



Conclusion

The National Workshop successfully convened diverse experts and stakeholders to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities for water sector adaptation under climate change. The event reaffirmed the critical role of the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) Roorkee as the anchoring institute for the water sector, working in collaboration with the National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) to draft the sectoral adaptation plan for submission under India's National Adaptation Plan.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the National Water Mission, India's water sector adaptation planning emphasizes science-based policy, integration of traditional knowledge, and enhanced coordination between central and state agencies. The workshop generated a wealth of actionable recommendations, highlighting the need to shift from reactive disaster response to proactive risk governance. Key priorities include enhancing forecasting with AI/ML and advanced technologies, enforcing resilient infrastructure codes, promoting nature-based solutions, and breaking down institutional silos through centralized data platforms and improved inter-agency coordination. Furthermore, the discussions underscored that effective adaptation must be inclusive, mandating the mainstreaming of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles into all policies and projects.

Thank you



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Group Photo during the valedictory session

The recommendations form a valuable resource for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, NIH Roorkee, and partner institutions as they advance toward finalizing India's National Adaptation Plan. By addressing sectoral risks while emphasizing inclusivity, governance reforms, and alignment with national schemes, the collaborative spirit of this workshop will be essential in ensuring a climate-resilient future for India's water sector.

Where Water Flows, Life Follows: Narmada in Rajasthan E&R Wing, NCA, Indore

Introduction:

**In the arms of thirsty land,
A river flows with gentle hand.
Birdsong returns where once was none
Mother Narmada brings life with every run.**

Water is life, and nowhere is this more evident than in the arid stretches of Rajasthan, where for generations, the districts of Jalore, Barmer, and Sanchores endured the relentless grip of drought. The arrival of the Sardar Sarovar Project's Narmada Canal, a marvel of modern engineering, has dramatically altered this landscape, turning saline soils and barren fields into a vibrant patchwork of agricultural prosperity and ecological renewal. The Narmada Main Canal now extends 74 kilometers into Rajasthan, irrigating over 2.46 lakh hectares and supplying water to more than 1,500 villages and three major towns. This perennial water supply has fundamentally changed the region's destiny, replacing the uncertainty of rain-fed agriculture with the security of year-round irrigation and reliable drinking water.



Pic 1: View of the Canal – Narmada's Flow of Hope

The revival of soil fertility reflects the impact of sustained water management. In areas like Rankhar and the Rann of Galifa, an underlying gypsum layer slows percolation, helping canal and monsoon water nourish crops and form wetlands. Regular irrigation has leached salts, reducing salinity and alkalinity. As organic matter increases and soil improves, nutrient cycling has accelerated. Cropping intensity has risen from one rain-fed crop to three annually, with wheat and cotton yields doubling or tripling.

Avifaunal Renaissance

Perhaps the most remarkable and often underappreciated outcome of the canal's presence has been the rebirth of seasonal wetlands across Rajasthan's arid belt. Natural depressions and low-lying saline basins, previously barren or used briefly during the monsoon, have become almost perennial wetland ecosystems, sometimes due to seepage and sometimes due to direct inflows from the canal. The **Rankhar Wetland in Sanchore**, spanning several hectares on gypsum-rich black soil, now supports more than 110 species of birds from 41 families (Jaipal and Khati, 2023), with a high diversity index ($H=4.40$). The **Rann of Galifa in Sanchore**, once a saline depression, is now a seasonally flooded wetland that hosts flamingos, black-tailed godwits, pelicans, and a host of migratory species. **Jalberi wetlands**, formed primarily due to seepage and controlled overflow, have become crucial stopover and breeding habitats along the Central Asian Flyway. These wetlands support a mosaic of habitats, including reed beds, mudflats, open water, and shallow lagoons, that nurture a diverse avifaunal community, comprising greater and lesser flamingos, western reef heron, black-tailed godwits, pelicans, spoonbills, painted storks, cranes, egrets, and ducks, etc. The abundance of aquatic invertebrates, such as mayflies, dragonflies, and caddisflies, forms a thriving food web that supports the high proportion of insectivorous bird species.



Pic 2: Flamboyance of Grace: Greater Flamingos at Jalberi

It is interesting to note that bordering these wetlands is *Prosopis juliflora*, a hardy, drought-tolerant species introduced to combat desertification. Though classified as invasive, yet, in this transformed landscape, it probably plays a nuanced role, acting as a windbreak, stabilizing loose desert soil, and offering perching or nesting sites for some bird species, including flamingos, during non-breeding seasons.

Fish Diversity

A Zoological Survey of India study recorded eight new fish species in the Luni River at Sanchore, Jalore district. Once a seasonal stretch, the river now hosts perennial pools due to surplus releases from the Narmada Canal, supporting species like *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Notopterus notopterus*, *Channa punctatus*, *Puntius sophore*, *Rasbora daniconius*, *Mystus gulio*, and *Pethia ticto*. With proper maintenance of water levels, the area could develop into a productive wetland for fisheries.

Water Transforms: From Barren to Thriving:

This ecological revival has spurred agricultural prosperity. Where once only millets grew, farmers now harvest wheat, cotton, mustard, cumin, pulses, and vegetables, often thrice a year. Incomes have risen, migration declined, and new livelihoods emerged in agro-processing, dairy, and eco-tourism. Community-led Water Users Associations ensure fair water sharing and balance agriculture with wetland conservation. Nowhere is this change more visible than in Sanchore, transformed from a remote outpost into a thriving district hub.

However, challenges persist. In areas like Chitalwana, over-irrigation and poor drainage have led to waterlogging and secondary salinity across several villages. Rising humidity and expanding wetlands have displaced desert species, disturbing ecological balance. These issues demand adaptive management through micro-irrigation, improved drainage, and vigilant monitoring of wetlands and invasive species with corrective and preventive actions.

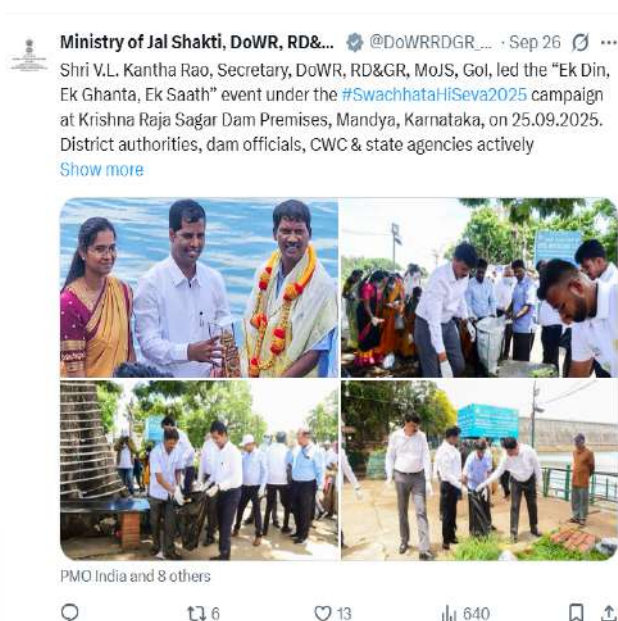


Pic 3: Black Cranes Soaring Near Rankhar

Conclusion:

The Narmada Canal's journey through Rajasthan is more than an engineering marvel; it is a story of hope, resilience, and renewal. Through scientific foresight, community effort, and ecological care, the region has found harmony between abundance and biodiversity. It echoes the Ministry's vision: "Har Khet Ko Pani, Har Parivar Ko Khushhali." As the sun sets over the wetlands of Rankhar, Rann of Galifa and Jalberi, the air rings with the calls of flamingos and cranes, a poetic reminder that the miracle of water can awaken not just fields, but entire landscapes and communities.

X Snippets (Secretary)



अमृत! सत्य या मिथ्या?

बालपन से मन में प्रश्न उठा,
क्या है अमृत? क्यों है इसका मूल अनूठा?
एक बूँद से जीवन लौंटे – यह कैसा चमत्कार,
सोचा करती थी, कि होगा कोई उपहार।

चित्रपटों में देखा, नाटकों में जाना,
मरणासन्न को अमृत पिला, फिर से जीवन पाना।
वो एक बूँद जो मृत को भी चेतना दे जाती,
मानो ब्रह्मा की कलम से पुनः कथा लिखी जाती।

पर जैसे-जैसे जीवन के पन्ने पलटे,
वास्तविकता के जल से भ्रम के दीप जले।

अमृत कोई कल्पित रसायन नहीं था,
वो तो जल था – जीवन का प्रथम गीत,
प्रथम प्राणवायु, प्राणियों का प्रथम मीत।

बिना जल के कुछ भी न संभव,
न जीवन, न सृष्टि, न कोई उत्सव।
जिस जल से जीवन का आरम्भ हुआ,
वही तो अमृत है – हर मनुष्य और प्राणी में समाया हुआ।

संभव है, जब देवगणों ने अमृत की बात की,
उन्होंने शुद्ध जल-रक्षा की ही बात की।
'समुद्र मंथन' में जो निकला, वो जल का सार था,
और असुर शायद वही थे – जो प्रकृति का उपकार था।

तो अगली बार अगर कोई 'अमृत' पूछे तुमसे,
कह देना – हर बूँद जो जीवन दे।
अगर पूछे, कहाँ है उसका स्थान,
कह देना – जल की हर बूँद ही है उसका धाम।

नल से टपकती बूँद भी है उतनी ही पावन,
जैसे हिमगिरि से बहती गंगा या महादेव का प्रिय सावन।

- रागिनी सिंह



Government of India

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