

NATIONAL JAL JEEVAN MISSION –GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES



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NATIONAL JAL JEEVAN MISSION GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

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INTRODUCTION:

Right to clean water was recognized as a basic human right by the U.N General Assembly in 2010. Although water is available in abundance, the availability of potable drinking water is acute. Consequently, India has been facing an acute scarcity of clean drinking water since Independence. NITI Aayog's composite Water Management Index, 2018 reported that 21 cities in India are likely to face a zero day in the near future, 75% of Indian households do not have drinking water access in their premises and 84% of rural households do not have access to piped water¹. In this background the government has taken several initiatives to provide clean drinking water to everyone. One such initiation by the Central Government is the *National Jal Jeevan Mission*(hereinafter NJJM). This mission aims at providing a functional household tap connection for individual houses in rural India for safe and clean drinking water by 2024. The mission focuses on implementing source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through, among other things, grey water management, water conservation, rainwater harvesting and the like. JJM will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education, and communication. JJM looks to create a Jan Andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.² This article delineates the visions and objectives of the NJJM and highlights some of the apparent challenges in the implementation of the Mission.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

In the post– independence era, the increase in population, disruption in rainfall patterns and scarcity of drinking water etc. prodded the government to carefully consider the importance of safe and clean drinking water³. The first initiative towards this was made by the Environmental Hygiene Committee by recommending a programme to provide safe water supply to all the villages under the first five-year plan(1951- 56). It was targeted at providing 100% urban and rural water supply. Drinking water supply was covered under the community development

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¹Composite Water Management Index, 2018, NITI AAYOG, (Last visited 17th July 2021),

https://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/2018-05-18-Water-index-Report_vS6B.pdf Pg. No 123

² Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021), <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/>

³Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION(Last visited 17th July 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. No 7

programme till the third five-year plan (1961-66). Further, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) was launched to provide scientific input and cost-effective technological solutions to address water scarcity under the Eighth five-year plan (1992- 97). Subsequently, tackling the problem of water quality was taken up. In 1992, 73rd Amendment to the Constitution placed the subject of drinking water under the 11th Schedule and assigned its management to Gram Panchayats. In 1999- 2000, Gram Panchayats and local community was involved in drinking water scheme which was further scaled up as *Swajaldhara* which was later modified and renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Program in 2009-10. Initially the focus of the government was on providing drinking water supply to rural areas through hand pumps, protected wells, or piped water supply with public stand posts as delivery points. These schemes were faced with challenges such as inadequate investment, over dependence on groundwater, poor maintenance of schemes etc. NRDWP discontinued installing new hand pumps since 2017 due to limited availability of resources and constraints⁴. Hence the Jal Jeevan Mission was set up under the Ministry of Jal Shakti for a better implementation of the plan and to overcome the short comings of the previous schemes and programmes.

VISION, MISSION, OBJECTIVES OF NJJM:

The National Jal Jeevan Mission has a vision to provide every rural household with drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges. This has the potential to improve the standard of living of rural communities. The aim is to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India⁵.

Jal Jeevan Mission is planned to assist, empower, and facilitate the States/ Union Territories in planning a participatory rural water supply strategy for ensuring potable drinking water security on a long-term basis to every rural household and public institution, viz. GP building, School, Anganwadi centre, Health centre, wellness centres, etc. States/ UTs to create water supply infrastructure so that every rural household has Functional Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 and water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality is made available on a regular basis and to plan their drinking water security. Gram Panchayats/ rural communities are empowered to plan, implement, manage, own, operate and maintain their own in-village water supply systems. States/ UTs are directed to develop robust institutions having focus on service delivery and financial sustainability of the sector by promoting utility approaches. Capacity building of the stakeholders and creating awareness in the community on the significance of water for improvement in quality of life is essential. In making provision and mobilization of financial

⁴Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION(Last visited 17th July 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. No 7 - 12

⁵Vision, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION(Last visited 17th July 2021), <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/content/about-jjm#vision>

assistance to States/ UTs for implementation of the mission, the central government has poised itself towards several endeavors⁶.

The broad objectives of the Mission are to provide FHTC to every rural household, prioritize provision of FHTCs in quality affected areas, villages in drought prone and desert areas, *Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)* villages, etc, to provide functional tap connection to Schools, Anganwadi centres, GP buildings, Health centres, wellness centres and community buildings, monitor functionality of tap connections, to promote and ensure voluntary community ownership among local community by way of contribution in cash, kind and/ or labour and voluntary labour (*shramdaan*), the mission also aims at assisting in ensuring sustainability of water supply system, i.e. water source, water supply infrastructure, and funds for regular O&M. Another objective is to empower and develop human resource in the sector such that the demands of construction, plumbing, electrical, water quality management, water treatment, catchment protection, O&M, etc. All these elements are taken care of in the short and long term. to bring awareness on various aspects and significance of safe drinking water and involvement of stakeholders in a manner that makes water everyone's responsibility and priority⁷.

Besides focusing on providing drinking water supply, the NJJM also focuses on implementing source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rainwater harvesting⁸. One of the main drawbacks in the previous legislations was that exhaustion of ground water and non-treatment of grey water. It is observed that household water wastes from kitchen and bathroom amounts to 75% of the water supplied. Hence the mission plans to use the treated grey water to recharge groundwater and for irrigation purposes.

For the smooth and successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, a four-tier institutional mechanism is set up at National Level, State Level, District Level and Gram Panchayat Level. Firstly, National Jal Jeevan Mission is headed by senior officer with a Directorate. It will provide policy guidance, financial assistance and technical support to states and coordinate with other Ministries and Departments for convergence. Secondly, State Water and Sanitation Mission is headed by Chief Secretary. SWSM would be responsible for coordination, convergence, and policy guidance at the state level. Thirdly, District Water and Sanitation Mission is headed by Commissioner or District Collector. DWSM will ensure preparation of village action plan and coordinate with gram panchayats. Lastly, *Paani Samiti/ Village Water and Sanitation Mission* headed by the *Sarpanch/ Gram panchayat member/ Leader of Gram Sabha* etc. Community will

⁶Mission, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021, 11:02 AM), <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/content/about-jjm#mission>

⁷Objective, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021), <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/content/about-jjm#objectives>

⁸Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. No 7 - 12

play a lead role under JJM⁹. As of 14th July 2021, the Mission has been successful in providing FHTC to provide water to 7,72,41,758 houses i.e. 40.77% of the total number of households. The state's/ UT's of Goa, Andaman and Nicobar, Puducherry and Telangana have achieved 100% functional tap connections in their states¹⁰.

CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NJJM:

The implementation of such ambitious Missions is more often than not fraught with challenges and the success of such programmes depends on how effectively the challenges that crop up from time to time are addressed. Previous initiatives on drinking water supply have faced a variety of issues which included irregular rainfall patterns, water quality issues, inadequate infrastructure, poor O&M, lack of resource efficiency, less community involvement, coordination challenges etc. In this section of the article, an effort has been made to highlight some of the existing challenges that may hamper the seamless implementation of the Mission and ones that may crop up over the course of time.



⁹Institutional Mechanism, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021), <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/content/institutional-bodies-content>

¹⁰Dashboard, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited 17th July 2021), <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

Figure 1: Source: Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission¹¹

Interlinkage between SDG 6.1 with Sanitation Sector:

In 2015, the international community agreed to a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals that aim to tackle multiple issues that the world is facing such as global poverty, hunger, gender equality, provision of clean and safe drinking water, affordable and clean energy, decent work, and economic growth, responsible consumption, and climate action amongst others.¹²SDG6 relates to the issue of clean water and sanitation. The goal outlines eight targets which have been represented below in the chart:¹³

SDG 6 Sub GOALS	OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
6.1	Universal & Equitable access to safe & affordable drinking water	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.
6.2	Adequate and equitable sanitization for all.	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including hand-washing facility with soap and water
6.3	Improvement of water quality through reduction of water pollution.	Proportion of wastewater safely treated; proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.
6.4	Increase of water use efficiency across sectors and reduce number of people suffering from water scarcity.	Change in water-use efficiency over time; Level of water stress; freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.
6.5	Implementation of integrated water resource management	Degree of Integrated water resource management implementation; Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
6.6	Protect and restore the health of water-related ecosystems.	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time.
6a	International Cooperation and capacity	Amount of water and sanitation related

¹¹Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION, (Last visited 17th July 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. no 13

¹²Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNITED NATIONS (Last visited 17th July, 2021) <https://sdgs.un.org/>

¹³Soumya Bhowmik et al, *ORF Occasional Paper on Tracking India's Progress in Clean Water and Sanitation: A Sub-National Analysis*, ORF (Last Visited 17th July, 2021) <https://www.orfonline.org/research/tracking-indias-progress-in-clean-water-and-sanitation-a-sub-national-analysis-67139/>

	building in developing countries through waste-water treatment, desalination, recycling and reuse of technologies etc.	official development assistance that is a part of a government-coordinated spending plan.
6b	Participation of local communities for improvement of water and sanitation.	Proportion of local administrative units with established operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management.

The water supply sector and the sanitation sector have both been dealt together under SDG 6. Together, they are described by the acronym WASH, which stands for *Water and Sanitation Hygiene*¹⁴. Goal 6.1 which deals with universal and equitable access to safe drinking water is closely linked with the sanitation sector which deals with the safe disposal of human waste, wastewater management, solid waste management, water supply etc.¹⁵ Due to the lack of proper sanitary framework and bathrooms, people defecate in the open, which in turn contaminates the water resources from which water is to be supplied¹⁶. So, a framework for supplying clean and safe drinking water must also aim at strengthening the sanitation infrastructure and the sewerage systems, so that the circular process of contamination is not repeated. Under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the country made good progress in provision of drinking water. However, the same could not be said about the progress made on sanitation sector which continued to remain inadequate for a long period of time¹⁷. The turning point in the same came through the initiation of *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)*. While the proportion of global population using at least basic sanitation services increased from 59% in 2000 to 68% in 2015 (UN 2015), in India it increased from 70 to 93% (UNICEF & WHO 2019)¹⁸. This led to the government declaring that the country had achieved ODF (Open Defecation Free) status. Since the onset of this century, about 486 million people have gained access to sanitation services in the country¹⁹. However, one of the key challenges posed for rural sanitation under SBM Grameen remains the sustained use of these constructed toilets. Inadequate sewerage system in

¹⁴Health Topics, Water and Sanitation Hygiene, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (Last Visited 19th July, 2021) <https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash>

¹⁵S. K. Sarkar & Girija K. Bharat, *Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in water and sanitation sectors in India*, JOURNAL OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR DEVELOPMENT 2 (2021) <https://iwaponline.com/washdev/article/doi/10.2166/washdev.2021.002/82996/Achieving-Sustainable-Development-Goals-in-water> (Last Visited 14th July, 2021)

¹⁶ Water Facts, Water and Sanitation Hygiene, UN WATER (Last Visited 19th July 2021) <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-sanitation-and-hygiene/>

¹⁷*Supra* 15.

¹⁸About, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, SWACCH BHARAT MISSION (Last Visited 18th July, 2021) <https://swachhbharatmission.gov.in/SBMCMS/about-us.htm>

¹⁹Mahesh Langa, *Prime Minister Modi declares country open defecation-free*, THE HINDU (Last Visited 18th July, 2021) <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-open-defecation-free-says-narendra-modi/article29576776.ece>

rural areas is a challenge to the programme.²⁰Further, initiatives taken towards this end, like the large-scale construction of toilets and latrines under the *Swaachh Bharat Mission* in water scarce areas require regular maintenance of water supply.²¹

This discussion becomes pertinent for the adverse impact it could have on initiatives like NJJM, which is also intricately connected to the issue of sanitation. The ODF status of the country is also doubtful since the open defecation status was challenged by the NSSO survey. The data shows that about 43% of the total households in the rural areas of the country did not have access to any sort of bathroom, while the number was 8% for urban areas. Cumulatively 31.5% of households in the country did not have access to bathrooms. As regards to access to latrines, the figure read 28% in rural areas, 3.8% in urban areas and 20.2% overall households did not have access to latrines²². Merely having access to bathrooms and latrines is not the same thing as using them. Because of the historical practice of open defecation in the country people still may not be using the latrines²³. Overcoming this barrier seems to be a challenge for the SBM and may adversely impact NJJM.

Drought, Reduction in Rainfall and Groundwater:

Universal access to safe and reliable drinking water through piped connections is dependent on the sustenance of the water source. One of the main components under the Mission is development of in-village piped water supply infrastructure to provide tap-water connections to every rural household. The Operational Guidelines of the Mission defines “in-village piped water supply infrastructure” as:

*the piped water supply infrastructure of a new scheme/retrofitting of existing scheme/ augmentation of existing water source(s) and its necessary components including ESR, sump, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge structures, grey water management infrastructure, washing/ bathing place, cattle troughs, etc. In desert, drought-prone, hilly, and water-stressed areas, cluster storage is also part of in-village water supply infrastructure.*²⁴

²⁰*Supra* 15 at 9.

²¹ GIRIJA. K. BHARAT ET AL., DISCUSSION PAPER ALIGNING INDIA’S SANITATION POLICIES WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), <https://www.teriin.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/aligning-Indias-sanitation-policy-with-the-SDGs.pdf> (Last Visted 13th July, 2021)

²²*Drinking Water, Sanitation, Housing and Hygiene in India: NSSO 76th Round NSSO*, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA 93-113 (Last Visited 17th July, 2021) http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/NSS7612dws/Report_584_final.pdf

²³ Ishan Bakshi, *Building toilets not enough to end open defecation*, BUSINESS STANDARD (Last visited 16th July, 2021) https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/building-toilets-not-enough-to-end-open-defecation-115032501279_1.html

²⁴Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION, (Last visited 17th July, 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. no 5

Effective ground water management, hence, is critical to the success of the National Jal Jeevan Mission²⁵. Over exploitation of groundwater sources poses a major challenge for the mission. The Ground Water Assessment Report of 2017 presents a really concerning picture. As per the report, the assessment blocks in the country which fall in the “over-exploited” category have been continuously increasing²⁶. Very recently, the UNDRR (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) came up with its Drought 21 Report that has alarming predictions not just for the country, but also globally. In India, the effect of severe droughts on the country’s GDP is estimated at 2-5% despite substantial decrease in contribution of agriculture to the GDP²⁷.

Globally, India is one of the highest extractors of groundwater. A 2012 report by the World Bank suggests that the country extracts about 230 km³ of groundwater per year²⁸. Coupled with this, even the rainfall rich areas of the country are witnessing reduction in rainfall because of the climate change impacts²⁹. All of this put together may adversely affect the available water sources and cause reduction in available groundwater. This in turn may have a cascading effect on the ambition to connect households with safe and clean drinking water and tackling it remains a major challenge for the mission.

Slippage Practices:

Another major hindrance to such initiatives is the persistent practice of slipping back from the status of fully covered to partially covered. After an assessment unit under any scheme has been declared as fully covered, slipping back to the status of partially covered or not covered is a phenomenon that is commonly known as slippages. Slippages have been highlighted as a major reason why previous efforts along this line have not managed to achieve the desired levels of effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Performance Audit Report on the National Rural Drinking Water Programme³⁰ (NRDWP) highlighted that, in between 2012-2017 4.76 lakh habitations slipped back from “fully covered” to “partially covered” status. Such slip back was very high in States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal³¹. The Report further went on highlight the reasons for

²⁵ Richa Sharma, *Groundwater contamination a challenge for Jal Jeevan Mission: Report*, THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS (Last Visited 19th July, 2021) <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/dec/16/groundwater-contamination-a-challenge-for-jal-jeevan-mission-report-2076695.html>

²⁶ *National Compilation on Dynamic Groundwater Resource in India, 2017*, MINISTRY OF JALSHAKTI, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 3 (2017) (Last Visted 12th July, 2021) <http://cgwb.gov.in/GW-Assessment/GWRA-2017-National-Compilation.pdf>

²⁷ *Special Report on Drought 21*, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 95 (Last Visted 12th July, 2021) <https://www.undrr.org/publication/gar-special-report-drought-2021>

²⁸ *India groundwater: A valuable but diminishing resource*, WORLD BANK (Last Visited 25th June, 2021 t) <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/03/06/india-groundwater-critical-diminishing>

²⁹ Sahana Ghosh, *The world’s wettest place in North East India is witnessing a decline in rainfall*, SCROLL (Last Visited 16th July, 2021) <https://scroll.in/article/986731/the-worlds-wettest-place-in-north-east-india-is-witnessing-a-decline-in-rainfall>

³⁰ COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA, PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME IN MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (2018), <https://cag.gov.in/en/audit-report/details/46268> (Last Visited 12th July, 2021)

³¹ *Id.*

such slip-back. The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were not managing the Operation & Management adequately. Excessive extraction of ground water, lack of sustainability of water resources, efforts at addressing quality non-sufficient and inadequate maintenance or non-maintenance of water supply schemes³² were all identified as the reason for such slip-backs³³.

The Jal Jeevan Mission too relies a lot on village level institutions like the Gram Sabha's for operation and maintenance. Though the mission focuses upon hitherto unaddressed areas like capacity building, maintenance of supply infrastructure is critical to prevent slippages and the overall success of the mission's broader objectives. Even, the SWOT Analysis of the Mission itself highlights the issue of lack of capacity at the Gram Sabha level as one of the threats to the mission³⁴. The mechanism for tackling slippages has been looked into and addressed in the operational guidelines issued by the Mission, its on ground implementation is a challenge which needs to be addressed.

Dismal Performance of Certain States:

Dismal performance of States like West Bengal is a cause of worry in the implementation of the programme. Against the target of providing rural tap water connections to over 55.58 lakh households in 2020-21, the State managed to reach only 2.2 lakh households³⁵. Such dismal performances display a lack of action or disinterest by the State Government in implementing the scheme. Performance of big states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in this regard has also been unsatisfactory³⁶. Though the updated figures available on the website of Jal Shakti Ministry shows both the State of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh intensifying their efforts towards increasing the household tap water supplies (see table below), such dismal performances may affect the achievement of the 2024 targets. Infact, in the table below, three relatively large States like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have less than 20% coverage ratio for houses with taps. The table below shows the worst performers in terms of percentage of households connected with tap water as of date³⁷.

State	Total Households	Households with Tap Water Connection	Percentage Coverage
Rajasthan	1,01,32, 274	20, 40, 578 (+1001)	20.14

³²*Id* at 76-77

³³*Id* at Para 4.5

³⁴Operational Guidelines, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION,(Last visited on 17th July 2021), https://jalshakti-ddws.gov.in/sites/default/files/JJM_Operational_Guidelines.pdf Pg. no 17

³⁵“Dismal Performance”, says Centre Over West Bengal's Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, INDIA NEWS - TIMES OF INDIA, (Last Visited 14th July, 2021 here) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/dismal-performance-says-centre-over-west-bengals-implementation-of-jal-jeevan-mission/articleshow/78959000.cms>)

³⁶*Bengal, UP, Karnataka Fared Worst, Goa the Best Under Nal Se Jal Scheme, Govt Review Says* NATIONAL JAL JEEVAN MISSION- <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/content/bengal-karnataka-fared-worst-go-best-under-nal-se-jal-scheme-govt-review-says> (Last Visited 14th July, 2021)

³⁷Dashboard, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, JAL JEEVAN MISSION (Last visited on 17th July 2021), <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jimreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

Meghalaya	5,89,888	1,18,828 (+126)	20.14
Assam	63,35,015	8,86,101 (+6563)	13.99
Jharkhand	59,23,320	7,93,888 (+661)	13.40
Chhattishgarh	45,48,080	5,78,903 (+184)	12.73
Uttar Pradesh	2,63,38,776	31,28,192 (+4922)	11.88
Ladakh	44,059	4996 (+36)	11.34
West Bengal	1,63,25,859	17,82,201 (+5924)	10.92

Conclusion:

The Jal Jeevan Mission is an extremely ambitious social sector programme of the Government of India that seeks to transform that rural life of the country by providing functional tap water connection to every household by the year 2024. The Jal Shakti Ministry has been extremely thorough in its planning for the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Ministry sought to address most of such issues at least in terms of policy. As regards to sourcing of water, the policy has focussed on things like grey water management and elevated service reservoirs which are very crucial for the success of such initiatives. It has also sought to create a decentralized structure of implementing the mission keeping in mind the widespread regional diversity of the country. The Mission throughout in its operational guidelines talks about increasing the participation of women who have to face the adverse brunt of having to fetch water from far away sources in absence of tap water facilities at their homes. Translating the initiative into practice remains the main challenge now. Till now, a number of States have achieved fully covered status..The future course of the scheme should depend to a large extent on robust and flexible decision making at the lowest levels, convergence amongst the various entities in the implementation of the policy, greater efforts on the parts of a few States, and the strengthening of initiatives in allied sectors like sanitation, waste management and agriculture. Periodic review of data and making necessary adjustments should place the country in a good position to achieve universal tap water coverage by 2024, and thereby achieving the country's long-term targets under SDG 6.