



APRIL 2026 EDITION

WATER MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION

SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT



01

**AMRUT MITRA MAHOTSAV
HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S
PARTICIPATION IN URBAN
WATER MANAGEMENT
UNDER AMRUT 2.0**

— MoHUA TO EXPAND —
AMRUT MITRA MODEL
TO 5,000 CITIES

The **AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav**, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, highlights the growing role of women in urban water governance under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0. The initiative celebrates **women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, known as AMRUT Mitras**, who are actively contributing to sustainable water management in cities. The event underscores the importance of gender-inclusive participation in strengthening urban infrastructure and service delivery.



Source: <https://joharcg.com/tag/amrit-mitra-mahotsav/>

AMRUT 2.0 aims to **provide universal water supply, ensure water security, and improve sewerage and septage management** across urban India. Within this framework, women are being integrated into operational and community-level activities such as water quality testing, demand management, and public awareness campaigns. This inclusion not only **enhances efficiency but also promotes participatory governance at the grassroots level**, aligning with broader national development goals.

KEY DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION UNDER AMRUT 2.0

Community-Level Water Governance

Ensures local water needs are represented effectively

Operational Support in Urban Services

Supports efficient functioning of urban water systems

Awareness & Behavioural Change Initiatives

Encourages responsible water use and conservation practices

Grassroots Leadership Development

Develops leadership skills at the community level

Livelihood & Economic Empowerment

Creates income opportunities and financial independence

Strengthening Urban Service Delivery

Enhances accountability and quality of service delivery

A major highlight of the Mahotsav is the extensive involvement of women across the country. **Over 45,000 women SHG members are engaged as AMRUT Mitras across nearly 1,900 cities and towns.** These women undertake responsibilities such as metre reading, billing, collection, and maintenance support, thereby strengthening the interface between urban local bodies and citizens. Their participation ensures better accountability and improved service outcomes.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2239737®=3&lang=1>

The government has also announced plans to scale up this initiative to thousands of additional cities, significantly expanding livelihood opportunities for women. This expansion reflects a **policy shift towards embedding gender empowerment within urban development programs.** By recognizing women as key agents of change, the initiative fosters economic inclusion while enhancing the sustainability of water management systems.



Source: <https://www.etvbharat.com/hi/state/chhattisgarh-women-water-warriors-amrit-mitra-festival-bharat-mandapam-delhi-chhattisgarh-news-cts26031306896>

Furthermore, the Mahotsav emphasizes the **transition toward a circular water economy, focussing on wastewater reuse and conservation practices.** Women AMRUT Mitras play a vital role in promoting these practices at the community level, ensuring behavioural change and long-term sustainability. Thus, the AMRUT Mitra Mahotsav demonstrates how inclusive governance can strengthen urban resilience while advancing both environmental sustainability and women's empowerment in India.

02

AI ROBOTS TRANSFORM URBAN SANITATION IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM UNDER SWACCH BHARAT MISSION – URBAN 2.0



The Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 has accelerated the integration of advanced technologies to transform urban sanitation systems. In this context, **Thiruvananthapuram has emerged as a frontrunner by deploying AI-powered robotic solutions**, marking a shift from conventional, labour-intensive practices to smart and mechanised sanitation management. This transition also reflects the growing role of digital innovation in strengthening urban governance and service delivery.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2235846®=3&lang=1>

The Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation has introduced the **AI-enabled G-SPIDER robot for cleaning the Amayizhanchan canal, a critical and highly congested drainage channel** in the rapidly expanding urban city. The canal's narrow structure, continuous water flow, and heavy waste accumulation have historically made manual cleaning unsafe and inefficient. The use of robotics in such a complex environment reflects a significant transformation in how urban sanitation challenges are addressed.

Equipped with advanced sensors, AI-based vision systems, and a robotic arm with a grabber mechanism, the G-SPIDER robot can detect, collect, and remove waste with high precision. This ensures continuous and systematic cleaning, improving the efficiency of drainage maintenance. The automation of such operations represents a technological upgrade that enhances the overall effectiveness of urban sanitation infrastructure.



Source: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2026/01/29/ai-robot-canal-cleaning-system-launched-in-amayizhanchan-canal-in-thiruvananthapuram.html>



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2235846®=3&lang=1>

A key dimension of this transformation is the elimination of hazardous manual intervention. It also contributes to **formalizing sanitation work through technology-driven processes, reducing dependence on informal and unsafe labour practices.** Traditionally, sanitation workers were exposed to toxic gases, contaminated water, and life-threatening conditions while cleaning canals. The adoption of AI-driven robots **enables human-free cleaning in high-risk areas,** safeguarding worker dignity and aligning with national commitments to eradicate unsafe sanitation practices.

SMART URBAN SANITATION TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK

<p>Data-Driven Governance</p> <p>AI enables real-time monitoring and better decision-making</p>	<p>Preventive Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Early detection reduces blockages and flooding risks</p>	<p>Environment Sustainability</p> <p>Efficient cleaning supports healthier urban ecosystems</p>	<p>Digital Integration with Urban Systems</p> <p>Links sanitation with smart city and public systems</p>	<p>Scalable Innovation Model</p> <p>Provides a model for adoption across other cities</p>
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Thus, the deployment of AI robots in Thiruvananthapuram goes beyond a single intervention and signifies a **broader transformation of urban sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0.** By improving efficiency, ensuring safety, and promoting scalable technological solutions, this initiative sets a replicable model for cities across India, redefining the future of sustainable and smart urban sanitation systems.

HOW AG GROUP RESOURCES CAN HELP YOU

To develop customized engineering solutions for your upcoming sustainable water projects [Click Here](#)

03

JAL MAHOTSAV 2026 KICKS OFF WITH NATIONWIDE JAL ARPAN DIWAS



Jal Mahotsav 2026 commenced across India with the **nationwide observance of Jal Arpan Diwas** at a national event held in New Delhi, marking the formal launch of a major campaign to strengthen community-led water management. The campaign, **organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti**, was held from March 8 to March 22, 2026, under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, with an emphasis on **“Jan Bhagidari”** or public participation. It witnessed participation from representatives of various states, local bodies, and community institutions.

At the core of the launch, Jal Arpan Diwas symbolises the formal handover and transfer of ownership of **rural drinking water infrastructure to Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees**. This initiative reinforces decentralised governance by placing responsibility for operation and maintenance directly in the hands of local communities, ensuring long-term sustainability of water resources. It also strengthens institutional accountability at the village level by clearly defining roles in water service delivery.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2238557®=3&lang=2>



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2236669®=3&lang=2>

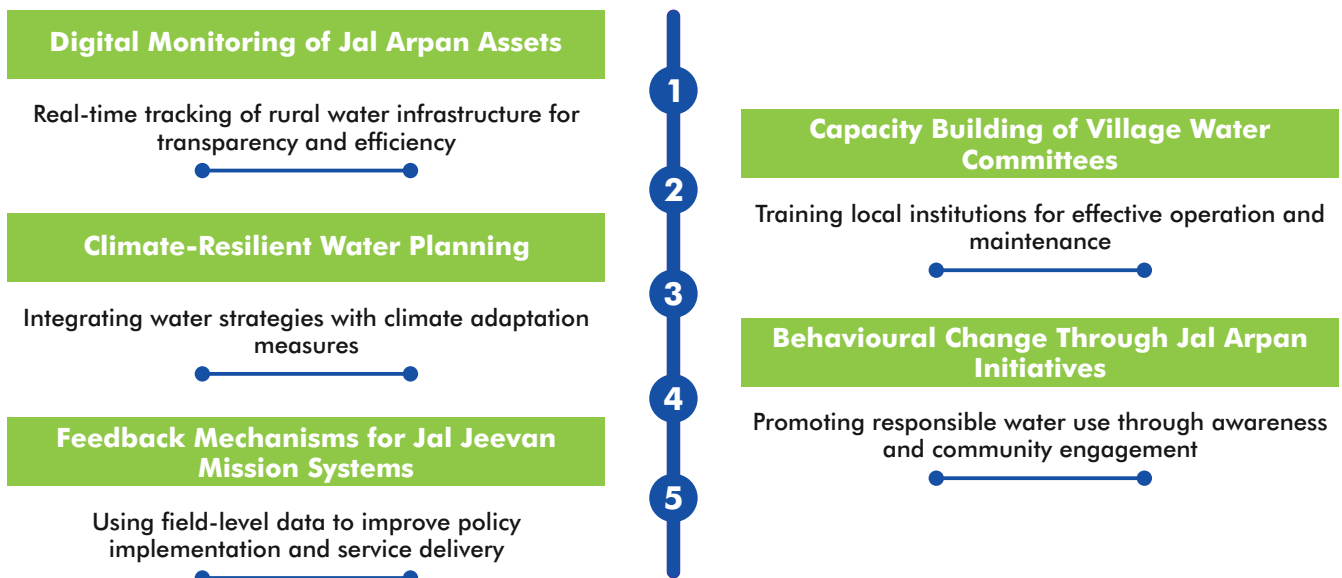
As part of Jal Arpan Diwas, special emphasis has been placed on the role of women in water management. **Aligned with International Women's Day, women, particularly from Self-Help Groups, are actively participating in water quality testing, system maintenance, and awareness initiatives**, thereby strengthening grassroots-level engagement. Their involvement not only enhances efficiency in water management but also promotes inclusive and participatory governance.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2236669®=3&lang=2>

The nationwide observance of Jal Arpan Diwas also serves as a platform to promote key water conservation practices such as rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. These efforts are being complemented by **awareness campaigns encouraging responsible water usage at the household and community levels**. During the event, it was highlighted that integrating water conservation into daily life and treating water as a shared national resource are essential for sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES OF JAL ARPAN DIWAS



By anchoring its activities around Jal Arpan Diwas, Jal Mahotsav 2026 aims to **transform water management into a people-centric movement**. The campaign not only strengthens institutional mechanisms at the village level but also fosters collective responsibility, ensuring equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water across rural India.

04

EXTENSION OF JAL JEEVAN MISSION TO 2028 FOR STRENGTHENING RURAL DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS



JAL JEEVAN MISSION 2.0



The extension of the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** till December 2028 marks a significant policy step toward strengthening rural drinking water systems in India. **Initially launched in 2019 to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)**, the mission has achieved substantial coverage. However, the continuation of the programme reflects the government's recognition that **long-term sustainability and service quality are as important as infrastructure expansion**, particularly in diverse and geographically challenging rural contexts.



Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/cabinet-approves-extension-of-jal-jeevan-mission-up-to-december-2028/>

This extension aims to strengthen rural drinking water systems by **shifting the focus from infrastructure creation to reliable service delivery**. The focus is on ensuring regular, adequate, and safe water supply, addressing persistent challenges such as water quality concerns, supply interruptions, and seasonal variability across regions. It also **emphasizes the functionality of tap connections** rather than mere coverage expansion. This approach ensures that infrastructure investments translate into sustained and dependable access for rural households, improving service reliability.

STRENGTHENING MECHANISMS UNDER JJM EXTENSION

1

Financial Outlay Expansion

Rs.8.69 lakh crore investment under JJM ensuring system upgradation and sustainability

2

Infrastructure Expansion

Coverage increase to over 75% households

3

Digital Monitoring Systems

Use of real-time dashboards and IoT tools

4

Institutional Frameworks

Decentralized management through local bodies for sustained functionality

5

Sustainability Measures

Focus on groundwater recharge and conservation for long-term water security

The extended phase is supported by enhanced financial commitment and infrastructure upgradation. **Investments are directed toward repairing non-functional connections, modernizing existing water supply schemes, and expanding coverage to remaining households.** This also includes improving efficiency in water distribution systems and reducing physical losses such as leakages, thereby enhancing overall system performance and operational efficiency.

Another crucial dimension is the **strengthening of operation and maintenance (O&M) frameworks.** The mission now emphasizes sustainable management through improved governance, **backed by digital monitoring tools and real-time data systems.** These measures also facilitate timely identification of system failures and improve responsiveness in service delivery. Also, they enhance transparency, accountability, and timely maintenance, ensuring that water supply systems remain functional over time and deliver consistent outcomes.

Extension and Restructuring of Jal Jeevan Mission

- Cabinet approves extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) period up to **December 2028** with enhanced outlay and restructured implementation focusing on **structural reforms in rural drinking water supply sector under JJM 2.0**
- Cabinet approves enhancement of **total outlay to Rs. 8.69 lakh crore** with total central assistance of **Rs. 3.59 lakh crore** enhancing from Rs. 2.08 lakh crore approved in 2019-20
- Restructuring and reorientation** of JJM from infrastructure creation to a **service delivery** supported by drinking water governance and institutional ecosystem for **sustainable rural piped potable water supply**
- A uniform national digital framework **"Sujalam Bharat"** to **digitally map** the complete drinking water supply system from **source to tap**
- Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0** to provide tap water connections to all the **19.36 Crore rural households** across the country by **December 2028**

CABINET DECISION: 10-03-2026

Source: <https://www.dhyeyaias.com/currentaffairs/daily-pre-pare/view/jal-jeevan-missionextension-2028-jjm-2-0-india>



Source: <https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2023/07/transforming-communities-the-profound-impact-of-jal-jeevan-mission/>

Furthermore, sustainability is reinforced through community participation and water resource management. **Village-level institutions are empowered to manage water systems,** while initiatives such as rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge ensure long-term water availability. Thus, the extension of JJM to 2028 represents a comprehensive effort to build resilient, efficient, and sustainable rural drinking water systems.

HOW AG GROUP CAN BE OF HELP

To develop end-to-end solutions in water distribution in rural areas
[Click Here](#)

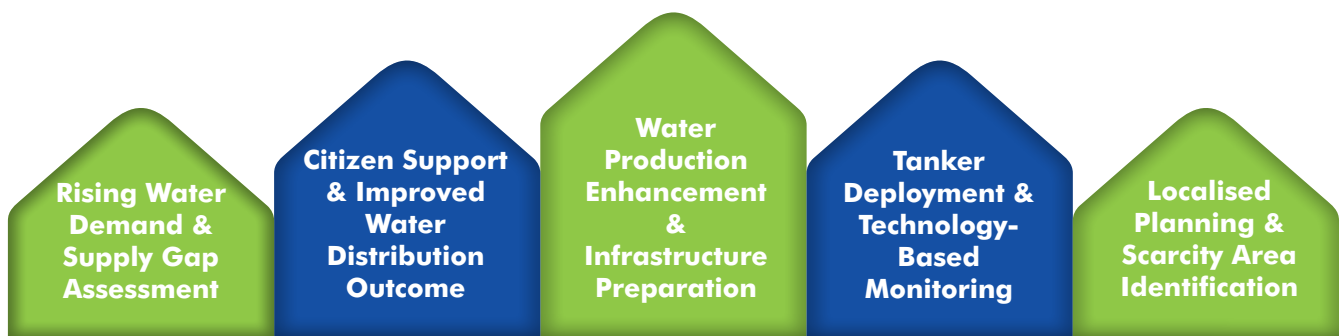
05

**DELHI GOVERNMENT
ROLLS OUT SUMMER
ACTION PLAN 2026
TO TACKLE WATER
DEMAND**



Amid **rising temperatures and increasing pressure on water resources**, the Delhi Government has introduced a comprehensive strategy to manage seasonal water demand across the city. The **Summer Action Plan 2026** aims to ensure uninterrupted and equitable water supply during peak summer months, when demand significantly exceeds available resources, especially in densely populated urban and peri-urban areas.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK OF SUMMER ACTION PLAN 2026



A key component of the plan is **maximising water production**, which stands at around 1,000 million gallons per day against an estimated demand of nearly 1,250 million gallons per day. To bridge this gap, authorities are **operating water treatment plants** at full capacity and supplementing supply through **extensive use of tube wells and groundwater extraction systems** across multiple locations. Preventive maintenance of pipelines, reservoirs, and pumping stations has also been carried out to minimise leakages and disruptions.




Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/delhi-govt-prepares-summer-action-plan-2026-to-ensure-adequate-water-supply-across-national-capital/>

The government has adopted a decentralised approach through constituency-level planning. Localised strategies include identification of water-scarce areas, preparation of colony-wise supply schedules, and targeted interventions in vulnerable zones to ensure fair distribution. In parallel, **civic bodies such as New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Public Works Department (PWD)** are focussing on strengthening infrastructure, expanding access to potable water, and maintaining water bodies for long-term sustainability.



Source: <https://www.news18.com/cities/new-delhi-news/delhi-summer-action-plan-2026-more-tankers-tube-wells-meet-water-demand-ws-l-10006178.html>



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ACTION PLAN DURING SCORCHING HEAT

PROMISE OF BETTER WATER SUPPLY

- 1 Target of 1,002 MGD of peak production by ensuring all major treatment plants, including Chandrawal, Wazirabad, Halderpur, Nangloi, Okhla, Dwarka, Bawana and Sonia Vihar, are fully operational
- 2 Continuously monitoring raw water quality, including ammonia levels, to avoid disruptions
- 3 Upgrading old pumps, motors and electro-mechanical systems to enhance efficiency
- 4 Improving distribution and leak management
- 5 Commissioning 436 additional tubewells before summer to add to the existing 5,854
- 6 Deploying 1,221 tankers per month, with GPS-based tracking and geo-tagging, real-time monitoring through dashboards and digitised route tracking to eliminate misuse

ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

8 laboratories operational across WTPs, with daily testing of 1,600-1,700 samples; compliance with BIS 10500 standards

LONG-TERM CHANGES BEING PLANNED

- 1 Replacement and upgrade of 80-year-old water and sewer pipelines
- 2 Chandrawal WTP modernisation initiated; performance stabilizing
- 3 50-year water master plan targets scaling up treatment capacity to 1,500MGD
- 4 Discussions under way with Haryana for additional 51 cusecs of water
- 5 Work initiated on Wazirabad desilting to enhance pondage capacity up to 2-3 days

GREATER COVERAGE FOR UNAUTHORISED COLONIES

Of 1,799 colonies, pipelines laid in 1,646; remaining colonies being covered in phased manner

QUICKER REDRESSAL IN OFFING?

Advanced customer relationship management system for complaint tracking and escalation

DJB 1916 Mobile App for real-time complaint registration and monitoring

Al-powered Chatbot for instant grievance support

WhatsApp-based complaint interface

Automatic escalation from JE to senior levels, if unresolved

Real-time updates for citizens

Time-bound resolution ensured under strict monitoring

24x7 call centre

1916 or 1800117118 for complaint redressal

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/peak-detailing-how-govt-plans-to-quench-delhis-thirst-this-summer/articleshow/129916794.cms>

To manage shortages effectively, the deployment of water tankers has been significantly expanded across different districts of the capital. Both departmental and hired tankers are being used, supported by **GPS tracking systems** to ensure transparency and efficiency in operations and timely service delivery. Additionally, a **24x7 control room and grievance redressal mechanisms** have been put in place to address public complaints promptly and efficiently.

Thus, the **Summer Action Plan 2026** reflects a **coordinated and technology-driven effort to tackle Delhi's recurring summer water challenges** in a structured manner. By integrating infrastructure upgrades, decentralised governance, and real-time monitoring systems, the government aims to enhance service delivery and build resilience against seasonal water stress while promoting responsible water usage.

EMINENT INSIGHT



"Villagers who once struggled to access drinking water now have access to clean and safe water in their homes. To secure our future, we must make water conservation an integral part of our lives."

Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President of India



RESOURCES

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As the **exclusive Indian business partner of Moody's** — backed by over **100+ years of global risk analytics** expertise — AG Horizon drives risk-informed development through advanced modelling monitoring and financial resilience capabilities.

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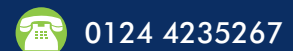
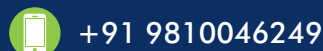
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