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DDWS (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation)

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DDWS (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation)

Practice: 6 MCQs
The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, or DDWS, works under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

It runs the Jal Jeevan Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). This page covers the department, its two missions, JJM 2.0, village ownership and rural sanitation.

- **Ministry:** Jal Shakti.
- **JJM launched:** 15 August 2019.
- **Rural tap coverage:** 82.09% (July 2026).
- **JJM 2.0 outlay:** Rs 8.69 lakh crore.
- **Extended to:** December 2028.

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1. What is the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation?

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, or DDWS, sits inside the Ministry of Jal Shakti. It looks after safe water and toilets for rural India. Two big programmes run through it: the Jal Jeevan Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

1.1 Why does one department handle both water and toilets?

Water and sanitation are linked. A village with toilets but unsafe water still falls sick. So the department treats the two as one health job.



DDWS runs India’s push to put tap water in every rural home. Photo: Plowing the land, CC BY-SA 2.0.

Sources:

- PIB, DDWS national review, 22 May 2026

- Cabinet note, PMIndia

2. What is the Jal Jeevan Mission?

The Jal Jeevan Mission, or JJM, aims to give every rural household safe and adequate drinking water. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched it on 15 August 2019. The key idea is a tap connection inside each home.

2.1 How big is the job?

JJM covers about 5.91 lakh villages and 2.62 lakh Gram Panchayats. It also covers over 16 lakh habitations. That is over 19.41 crore rural households, or nearly 96 crore people.

Sources:

- News on AIR, 14 Aug 2026
- News Arena
- PIB, DDWS national review, 22 May 2026 (section 2)

True or false: the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on 15 August 2019.

3. How fast did tap water reach rural homes?

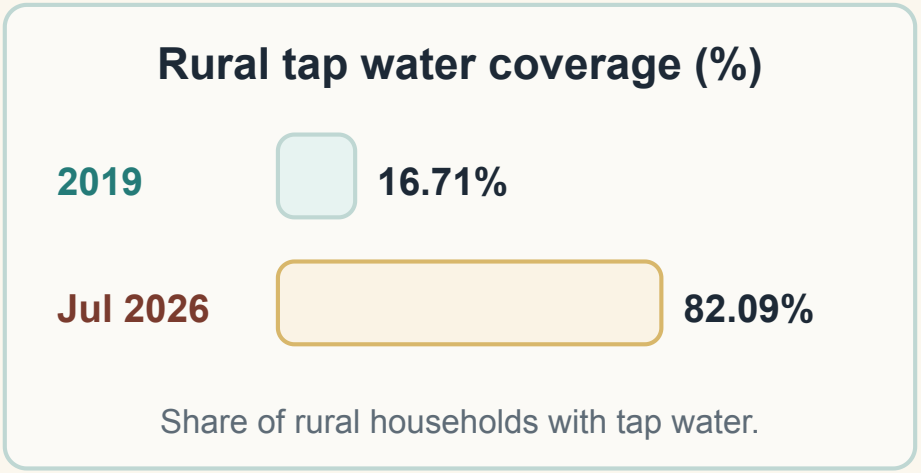
In 2019, only 3.23 crore rural households had tap water. That was about 16.71 per cent. By 18 July 2026, 15.89 crore of 19.36 crore households had it. That is 82.09 per cent.

3.1 How many new connections is that?

About 12.66 crore new tap connections were given since 2019. The number keeps rising. On 14 August 2026, coverage was 82.24 per cent.

3.2 What does a “Har Ghar Jal” village mean?

More than 2 lakh villages are now certified “Har Ghar Jal”. Certification means every home in the village has a tap connection.



Rural tap-water coverage, 2019 and July 2026. Original explanatory diagram.

Sources:

- News Arena, Lok Sabha reply
- News on AIR, 14 Aug 2026 (section 3)
- PMIndia Cabinet release

True or false: in 2019 about 82 per cent of rural homes had tap water.

4. What changed with Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0?

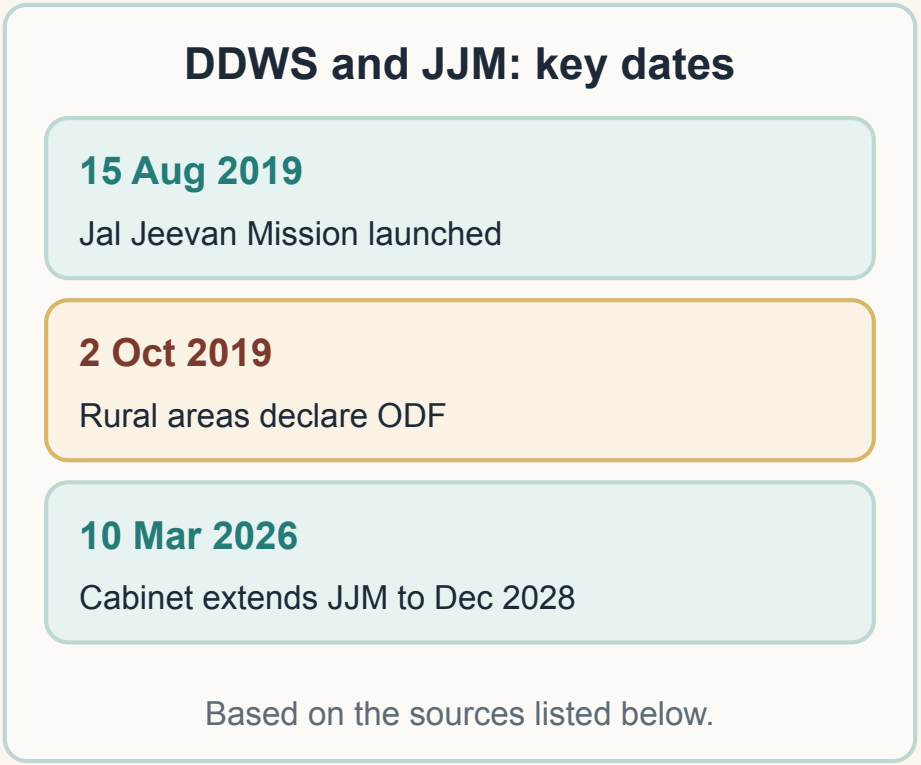
On 10 March 2026, the Union Cabinet extended the mission up to December 2028. The aim is to reach all 19.36 crore rural households by then. The Cabinet also raised the total outlay to Rs 8.69 lakh crore.

4.1 Who pays for it?

Central assistance rose to Rs 3.59 lakh crore. Earlier it was Rs 2.08 lakh crore. The extra central share is Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

4.2 What are the new operating rules?

DDWS released the JJM 2.0 Operational Guidelines on World Water Day, 22 March 2026. They focus on structural reforms and long-term sustainability.



Three dates in the DDWS story. Original explanatory diagram.

Sources:

- PMIndia Cabinet release (section 4)

- PIB, JJM 2.0 momentum
- News Arena (section 4)
- Delhi Greens
- PIB, JJM 2.0 guidelines, 22 Mar 2026

Think it through: why did the Cabinet shift JJM from infrastructure to service delivery?

Laying pipes does not guarantee water at the tap. Water must arrive daily, in enough quantity, and be clean. So the mission now tracks service, not only connections.

5. Why does JJM 2.0 stress service delivery?

A pipe is not enough. The tap must give water every day, in enough quantity, and clean. So the Cabinet moved the mission from infrastructure creation to service delivery.

5.1 How does the village take ownership?

Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees help commission and hand over each scheme. This handover is called “Jal Arpan”. A Gram Panchayat can declare itself “Har Ghar Jal” only after in-village operation and maintenance is confirmed.

5.2 How is progress tracked?

A digital framework called “Sujalam Bharat” gives each village a unique service area ID. A District Water and Sanitation Mission dashboard checks regularity, adequacy, quality and grievance redressal.

5.3 What did the District Collectors review show?

In May 2026, DDWS held a national review with about 759 District Collectors. They discussed JJM 2.0 and the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026. The stress was on sustained service delivery.

Sources:

- PMIndia Cabinet release (section 5)
- PIB, DDWS national review, 22 May 2026 (section 5)

True or false: under JJM 2.0 a Gram Panchayat can declare itself Har Ghar Jal before village upkeep is in place.

Think it through: why must villages own their water scheme?

A scheme that the village runs stays alive. Gram Panchayats and village committees handle upkeep through Jal Arpan. A village is called Har Ghar Jal only after that upkeep is confirmed.

6. What does the department do for rural sanitation?

DDWS runs the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). Rural areas in all States declared themselves open-defecation-free by 2 October 2019. Phase II then focused on keeping that status and on waste management.

6.1 What is ODF Plus?

ODF Plus means sustaining open-defecation-free status and adding solid and liquid waste management. Phase II was approved in February 2020 with a total outlay of Rs 1,40,881 crore for 2020-21 to 2024-25. Rs 52,497 crore of this was the budgetary component. The rest came through convergence, such as Finance Commission grants, MGNREGS and revenue models.

6.2 How much help does a family get?

The incentive for an individual household toilet is Rs 12,000. Help for a community sanitary complex rose from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh.

6.3 How is the cost shared?

The Centre and States share cost 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States and Jammu and Kashmir. For other States it is 60:40. For Union Territories it is fully central.

Sources:

- Cabinet note, PMIndia (section 6)
- PIB, Cabinet SBM-G Phase II, 19 Feb 2020

True or false: Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II is run by DDWS.

7. What does success look like on the ground?

Himachal Pradesh shows it. By July 2022, four districts had functional tap connections for every household: Una, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti. A village in Lahaul-Spiti, at the highest altitude in India, also got taps. In remote Kinnaur, water reached 411 habitations with 22,763 houses.

7.1 What are the health gains?

The Cabinet note cites outside studies. One estimate says about 400,000 diarrhoeal deaths can be prevented. Another says 9 crore women are freed from fetching water.

Sources:

- Sentinel Assam
- PMIndia Cabinet release (section 7)

Your understanding checks

Your 4 quick checks Answered 0 of 4 · Correct 0

This score resets when the page reloads.

Practice: 6 MCQs

Practice MCQs

1. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation works under which Ministry?

A. Ministry of Jal Shakti

B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

C. Ministry of Environment

D. Ministry of Rural Development

See answer ↓

2. On which date was the Jal Jeevan Mission launched?

A. 10 March 2026

B. 22 March 2026

C. 2 October 2019

D. 15 August 2019

See answer ↓

3. What share of rural households had tap water on 18 July 2026?

A. 50 per cent

B. 16.71 per cent

C. 82.09 per cent

D. 100 per cent

See answer ↓

4. Up to which date did the Union Cabinet extend the Jal Jeevan Mission on 10 March 2026?

A. March 2027

B. December 2026

C. December 2024

D. December 2028

See answer ↓

5. Under JJM 2.0, what is the handover of a water scheme to the village called?

A. Jal Arpan

B. Jal Sanchay

C. Jal Kranti

D. Sujalam Bharat

See answer ↓

6. What is the incentive for an individual household toilet under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II?

A. Rs 52,497 crore

B. Rs 12,000

C. Rs 5,000

D. Rs 3 lakh

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** The answer is **Ministry of Jal Shakti**. DDWS looks after safe water and toilets for rural India. Why the others fail: Rural Development, Health and Environment run other schemes. Memory hook: Jal means water, so the water department sits in Jal Shakti. ↑ Q1
2. **D.** The answer is **15 August 2019**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched it. Why the others fail: 2 October 2019 is when rural areas declared themselves open-defecation-free. 22 March 2026 is when the JJM 2.0 guidelines came out. 10 March 2026 is the Cabinet extension. Memory hook: the water mission began on Independence Day. ↑ Q2
3. **C.** The answer is **82.09 per cent**. That is 15.89 crore of 19.36 crore households. Why the others fail: 16.71 per cent was the figure in 2019. The mission has not reached 100 per cent yet. Memory hook: about 17 per cent in 2019, about 82 per cent in 2026. ↑ Q3
4. **D.** The answer is **December 2028**. The total outlay was raised to Rs 8.69 lakh crore. Why the others fail: the original mission period had ended earlier. The extension runs two more years beyond 2026. Memory hook: JJM 2.0 runs until December 2028. ↑ Q4
5. **A.** The answer is **Jal Arpan**. Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees help commission and hand over each scheme. Why the others fail: Sujalam Bharat is the digital tracking framework. Memory hook: arpan means offering, so the scheme is offered to the village. ↑ Q5
6. **B.** The answer is **Rs 12,000**. Help for a community sanitary complex rose from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. Why the others fail: Rs 3 lakh is for a community complex. Rs 52,497 crore is the total cost of Phase II. Memory hook: small toilet, small sum; big complex, big sum. ↑ Q6

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