Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0: first regional conference at Tiruchi

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News

The first regional conference on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 was held at Tiruchirappalli on 12–13 November 2026. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, organised it with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil chaired the ministerial session; Tamil Nadu's Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Water Resources, N. Anand, outlined the State's initiatives. Seven States/UTs took part: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Keralam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry and Lakshadweep. It is the first of five planned regional conferences. Paatil urged States to finish remaining works by December 2027 where feasible; the Mission's approved timeline ends in December 2028. About 16 crore rural households across India now have tap connections. The 'Sujalam Bharat' platform was cited as a digital tool for monitoring implementation.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	First JJM 2.0 regional conference (1st of 5)
Place, date	Tiruchirappalli, 12–13 Nov 2026
Organisers	DDWS (Ministry of Jal Shakti) + Govt of Tamil Nadu
Chair	Union Minister C.R. Paatil

Point	Details
TN Minister	N. Anand (Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Water Resources)
Participants	7 States/UTs (southern region + Lakshadweep)
Deadline	Dec 2027 where feasible; Mission till Dec 2028
Tap connections	About 16 crore rural households
Digital platform	Sujalam Bharat (app launched 10 Dec 2025)

Background

- Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in 2019 to give every rural household a functional household tap connection (FHTC) supplying at least 55 litres per person per day (55 lpcd) of BIS 10500-quality water. The earlier National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) norm was 40 lpcd. JJM 2.0 shifts from building infrastructure to 'sustainable service delivery': operation and maintenance (O&M), panchayat-led governance, source sustainability, a skilled local workforce and digital monitoring are its reforms.
- Constitution: 'Water' is Entry 17 of the State List; 'drinking water' is also a panchayat subject in the Eleventh Schedule (73rd Amendment). When the Gram Sabha certifies by resolution that every household in a village has tap water, it becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' certified. In August 2022 Goa became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified state, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu the first UT.
- Sujalam Bharat app: launched by Minister C.R. Paatil in New Delhi on 10 December 2025 with support from BISAG-N. It brings every rural drinking water scheme onto one geo-referenced system. Each scheme and its service area gets a unique 'Sujalam Bharat–Sujal Gaon ID'; the public can view data on sources, assets, supply reliability and water quality.
- Science – water quality: excess fluoride in drinking water causes dental fluorosis (stained teeth) and skeletal fluorosis (bone and joint damage). As groundwater in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts is fluoride-affected, the 'Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project', using Cauvery water and aided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was opened in May 2013. The Jal Jeevan Mission also stresses community-level water-quality testing. At the meet, NIOT (Chennai) also presented its seawater desalination technology used in Lakshadweep.

Tamil Nadu link: The very first regional conference was held at Tiruchi, jointly with the Tamil Nadu government. Minister N. Anand described Tamil Nadu's combined water supply schemes, overhead-tank cleaning, community water-quality testing, collection of service charges and district-level monitoring. As an example of community water management, the Kallanai (Grand Anicut) built by Karikala Chola on the Cauvery near Tiruchi, and the Cauvery water management system, were cited at the meet. Tamil Nadu JJM Mission Director Dinesh Ponraj Oliver gave the welcome address.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: First JJM 2.0 regional conference (1st of 5); Place, date: Tiruchirappalli, 12–13 Nov 2026; Organisers: DDWS (Ministry of Jal Shakti) + Govt of Tamil Nadu; Chair: Union Minister C.R. Paatil.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which department of the Jal Shakti Ministry implements the Jal Jeevan Mission?

A) Rural Development Dept

B) Drinking Water & Sanitation

C) Dept of Water Resources

D) Panchayati Raj Min.

Answer: B – Explanation: The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS); the same department runs Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

2. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, what is the minimum daily drinking water supply per person in rural areas?

A) 40 litres

B) 70 litres

C) 135 litres

D) 55 litres

Answer: D – Explanation: 55 lpcd, of BIS 10500 quality. The old NRDWP norm was 40 lpcd; 135 lpcd is the norm for sewered cities.

3. The Hogenakkal water supply scheme was built to tackle which contaminant in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri groundwater?

A) Arsenic

B) Fluoride

C) Nitrate

D) Iron

Answer: B – Explanation: Fluoride – excess causes dental and skeletal fluorosis. The JICA-aided scheme, using Cauvery water, was opened in 2013.

4. Who built the Kallanai, cited at the Tiruchi meet as a model of community water management?

A) Mahendravarman I

B) Pandya Nedunchezhiyan

C) Karikala Chola

D) Parantaka I

Answer: C – Explanation: The Sangam-age Chola Karikala, across the Cauvery (c. 2nd century CE); one of the oldest water-regulating structures still in use.

5. Which became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' (tap water to every home) certified state?

A) Goa

B) Telangana

C) Gujarat

D) Haryana

Answer: A – Explanation: Goa (August 2022); the first UT was Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. A Gram Sabha resolution is needed to certify.

Sources: PIB – Ministry of Jal Shakti (12 Nov 2026, PRID 2335598); PTI (12 Nov 2026); PTI (Sujalam Bharat, 10 Dec 2025); PIB (Har Ghar Jal, Aug 2022); PTI (Hogenakkal project launch, 29 May 2013); Constitution of India (Seventh and Eleventh Schedules). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.