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Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Signs MoU with Directorate General of Training to Skill 1 Lakh Youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

CHENNAI – 26 Nov, 2026

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Signs MoU with Directorate General of Training to Skill 1 Lakh Youth under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

In a significant stride towards ensuring long-term sustainability of rural drinking water infrastructure and generating local employment, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), and the Directorate General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Water Supply Operation & Maintenance Skilling Programme (Nal Jal Mitra) under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0).

The MoU was signed in the presence of C. R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, V. Somanna, Minister of State, Jal Shakti and Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, at the residence office of MoJS, New Delhi.

The agreement was formally executed by Swati Meena Naik, Joint Secretary, NJJM and Sunil Kumar Gupta, Deputy Director General, DGT. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, MoSDE, Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, Kamal Kishore Soan, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM, and senior officials from both Ministries were present during the MoU signing.



The Union Ministers present on the occasion appreciated the initiative, highlighting its significance in strengthening rural water supply systems through a skilled local workforce and creating livelihood opportunities for rural youth. They acknowledged the importance of inter-ministerial collaboration under the 'whole of government' approach in leveraging the country's vocational training infrastructure to support the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.

Briefing on Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and the skilling initiative, Ashok K.K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, said that with nearly 16 crore rural households now connected through tap water supply systems, the next priority is establishing a robust operation and maintenance ecosystem capable of supporting these assets over the long term. He stressed that timely technical support should be available within villages and nearby areas so that routine operational issues can be addressed quickly without dependence on external agencies.