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Second Regional Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 concludes at Agra, Emphasising Sustainability, Community Ownership and Gram Panchayat-led Water Governance

CHENNAI – 28 Nov, 2026 Second Regional Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 concludes at Agra, Emphasising Sustainability, Community Ownership and Gram Panchayat-led Water Governance.

The second regional Conference on Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, concluded today at Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The conference brought together representatives of seven northern States and Union Territories to deliberate on key strategies for accelerating implementation, strengthening sustainability and ensuring long-term functionality of rural drinking water supply systems

As part of the two-day regional conference, Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, today visited rural drinking water supply infrastructure and participated in the Jal Arpan Diwas celebration at Badhera (Bhadaira) W/S Scheme and 456 MLD WTP, Etah.

In the valedictory session, Secretary, DDWS emphasised that the Regional Conference had provided an important platform for States/UT to develop a common understanding of the reforms envisaged under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 and to learn from one another's experiences. Referring to the field visits undertaken during the day, he highlighted innovative practices observed in Uttar Pradesh, including the use of solar energy for rural water supply schemes and command-and-control systems for monitoring and operation of water supply infrastructure, and encouraged States to examine such practices for wider replication.

Highlighting that rural drinking water service delivery is fundamentally a local service, Meena stressed the importance of strengthening ownership of water supply assets by Gram Panchayats and local communities. He noted that Jal Arpan represents an important step towards transferring responsibility and ownership of drinking water infrastructure to communities and underscored the need to



build the financial, technical and institutional capacities of Gram Panchayats for sustained service delivery.

He said that infrastructure creation must be complemented by effective management, regular water quality surveillance and community participation. He reiterated the need for convergence among Departments of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Skill Development and Drinking Water to strengthen operation and maintenance, build local capacities and promote source sustainability through initiatives such as Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari. He called upon States to move towards sustainable, community-owned and efficiently managed rural drinking water systems while strengthening Gram Panchayats as the foundation of Viksit Villages and Viksit Bharat.