

## **Office of the Accountant General (Audit I), Kerala**

### **Press Brief**

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit on 'Jal Jeevan Mission', Government of Kerala, Report No. 10 of 2025 has been laid on the table of Kerala Legislative Assembly on 24 February 2026.

The summary of important points highlighted in the Report is given below:

- While the implementation of JJM in Kerala made considerable progress in expanding functional household tap connection (FHTC) network across rural areas, the State could achieve only 52.46 *per cent* by March 2024, as against the targeted 100 *per cent* coverage of rural households with FHTCs.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 4.1)*

- The State had not formulated an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Policy to ensure the sustainability and continuity of water supply systems.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 2.2)*

- Village Water and Sanitation Committees, envisaged to instill a sense of ownership and intended to be a means of empowerment of rural marginalised communities, were constituted only in four out of 21 test-checked Grama Panchayats and Village Action Plans were not prepared.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 2.3.1)*

- Of the total 4,04,404 FHTCs disconnected during the audit period, 2,13,991 disconnections occurred within one month of providing the same, indicating disinterest of beneficiaries in the scheme.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 2.3.1)*

- The State Action Plan did not flow out of District Action Plans (DAP) and no comprehensive action plan was formulated for source sustainability measures and greywater treatment.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 2.3.3)*

- The delay in release of matching State share for implementation of projects had a cascading effect on subsequent release of funds from GoI, culminating in non-receipt of GoI share to the extent of ₹1,370.85 crore.

*(Paragraph 3.1.2)*

- Bills totaling ₹3,578.47 crore were pending for payment to the contractors in the State, making them hesitant to take up new projects under JJM and work packages valued at ₹3,625.72 crore remained unawarded.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 3.3)*

- Lapse on the part of KWA officials in scrutinising the road restoration estimate furnished by Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) authorities resulted in avoidable payment of ₹87.19 lakh as GST, by KWA.

*(Paragraph 3.4)*

- The scheme faced significant delays, with only 51 *per cent* of the total 5,318 works getting completed in the five-year period and seventeen *per cent* of the works could not even commence. The major share of

implementation of JJM, with 86 *per cent* of schemes, was vested with KWA, of which, 71 *per cent* remained incomplete.

***(Executive Summary, Paragraph 4.1)***

- More than half of the total 7,458 applications relating to JJM works forwarded to various entities for obtaining road cutting sanction, were awaiting approval. Delay on the part of the sanctioning authorities in granting road cutting sanctions, which ranged between 60 to 390 days on average, affected the timely execution of the JJM works.

***(Executive Summary, Paragraph 4.2.1)***

- The issue of work order in case of two tenders at PH Circle, Kozhikode, opened on 11 June 2021, was kept in abeyance in anticipation of rate revision till 19 November 2021, in clear violation of the prevailing Government orders, which resulted in committed extra liability of ₹4.05 crore to KWA.

***(Paragraph 4.4.3)***

- Polymer pipes valuing ₹6.44 crore were stacked in selected districts at various locations for a period ranging from one to nearly two years, awaiting sanctions for laying.

***(Paragraph 4.4.4)***

- On cross-verification of the actual road restoration charges remitted by KWA with the amount generated in PRICE 3.0 for five works in Kollam and Kozhikode, it was noticed that ₹3.22 crore was paid in excess to PWD by KWA, wherein PWD had charged approximately 58.43 to 119.13 *per cent* in excess of actual requirement.

***(Paragraph 4.6.2)***

- No effective remedial action was being taken by KWA/test-checked GPs to address the health hazards in water quality-affected habitations by operationalising sufficient number of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPP).

***(Executive Summary, Paragraph 4.8.2)***

- Hundred *per cent* FHTCs were not provided in any of the prioritised areas in test-checked districts and in the only aspirational district in the State, Wayanad, till date (March 2025). Not even a single FHTC was provided in the three ST dominated GPs selected for audit, viz., Agali, Pudur and Sholayur.

***(Executive Summary, Paragraphs 4.9 and 4.12)***

- The State Referral Institute (SRI), Nettoor, was equipped to conduct tests for 40 parameters only in lieu of 73 number of water quality parameters to be tested at State level. A project initiated for strengthening the SRI infrastructure facilities was pending completion (June 2025) even after expending ₹5.65 crore.

***(Paragraph 5.1.1)***

- Regular and systematic water quality surveillance covering all water sources was not seen carried out by sub divisional laboratories and the results of samples which were tested positive were not shared with the

community for remedial action.

*(Executive Summary, Paragraph 5.1.3)*

- There were 5,107 instances of geo-tagging done outside the designated district. In 99 cases, the geo-tagged data captured in respect of FHTCs were related to positions outside the State, which included eight cases seen erroneously marked in Lakshadweep Sea.

*(Paragraph 6.2)*

- Billing of 66,134 JJM connections were not done for period ranging from three months to more than three years of connection.

*(Paragraph 6.2)*