

# Tapping In

WATER INDUSTRY NEWS, AWARDS, AND TRAINING

## ASSAM

### Severe Flooding Continues into Summer



Waves of flooding in spring and summer have taken a high toll in Assam state this year.

With monsoon flooding that began in the spring continuing into July, the situation for the hardest-struck communities in Assam remains precarious, with at least 16 lakh people living in 22 districts affected, as estimated by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority in a 3 July 2020 article (<https://bit.ly/3e4J7hK>) in *India Today*. Low-lying regions along the Brahmaputra have been especially affected, including croplands, wildlife sanctuaries, and communities displaced to relief camps. The region had recently experienced the receding intensity of Cyclone Amphan in May 2020, which devastated villages and water connections in the nearby regions to the south, West Bengal, Odisha, and the Andaman Islands, as reported in a 26 May 2020 article (<https://bit.ly/3gZN4H6>) in the *Hindustan Times*.

According to the article, the floodwaters submerged 72,717 hectares of cropland and swamped 2,053 villages. More than 12,500 people have taken shelter at 163 relief camps, with many others taking shelter in safer places as they can. The close quarters for those escaping high floodwaters are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half the areas of Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary were inundated, with floodwaters forcing many protected animals to seek safer places like the Karbi hills area. Even as water levels were receding in early July, the Brahmaputra, Dhansir, Jia Bharali, and Kopili rivers remained flowing above danger level in many parts of the state.

## JAL JEEVAN MISSION

### Tap Retrofit to Make Up Half of Mission's 2020 Efforts

Retrofitting existing drinking water infrastructure in rural communities will comprise about half of this financial year's target under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), according to a 30 June 2020 article (<https://bit.ly/2AH08Rn>) in the *Indian Express*. With Modi's pledge to offer "Nal se Jal" (water from the tap) for all rural households by 2024, retrofitting and augmenting existing taps will be a central activity of the mission during a time of global COVID-19 pandemic response. JJM guidelines mention that rural water supply infrastructure has to be "dovetailed, retrofitted, and renovated" to provide 55-lpcd tap connections, with the Central Government pressing states to explore retrofitting existing schemes now to provide functional household tap connections to remaining village households.

## WATER SECURITY

### Gujarat Launches Rainwater Harvesting Project

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Vijay Rupani inaugurated a rainwater harvesting project, which aims to store 10 crore liters of rainwater each year and is to be implemented in 1,000 government-run schools in Vadodara district, according to a 29 June 2020 PTI article (<https://bit.ly/3gB9ddJ>). Launching the project via a video conference from Gandhinagar, Rupani urged local leaders and administration officials to implement similar water harvesting projects in other government schools and buildings across the state. The CM said the Rs 6 crore rainwater harvesting initiative, completed in nine months by the district administration, was the first successful project of its kind in the country.

## EVENTS

### Education and Training Opportunities

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#### CONFERENCES

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#### WEBINARS

On Demand **AWWA COVID-19 Webinars, free at <https://news.awwa.org/33A6aNG>**

12 Aug. **Tools to Build Utility Source Water Protection Programs**

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