First State water grid portal launched in Jaipur

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The first State water grid portal was launched here on Wednesday along with the start of fourth phase of the Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan, which is the Rajasthan government’s flagship water conservation project. The campaign has led to construction of about 4 lakh water harvesting structures in over 12,000 villages.

The Water Resources Department has developed the portal to monitor the availability and supply of water from different sources. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched the portal after flagging off the mobile water testing laboratories.

Inaugurating the JSA’s fourth phase, Ms. Raje said the success of the campaign had changed the scenario in the desert State by ensuring an active participation of voluntary groups, common people and elected representatives. While the National Green Tribunal had suggested its replication in other States, the NITI Aayog had given an improved ranking to Rajasthan in water management index.

Green cover

Ms. Raje said the JSA had led to an average increase by 4.66 feet in the ground water level and reactivation of 63% of dry handpumps and 20% of tube-wells. Besides, the green cover had expanded over an area measuring 3,678 hectares.

The JSA’s fourth phase will cover about 4,000 villages across the State with the emphasis on restoration of irrigation potential of waterbodies and revival of traditional water sources.

Rajasthan River Basin and Water Resources Planning Authority chairperson Sriram Vedire said the JSA, which had started in January 2016 with the budget of Rs. 1,500 crore, had helped restore most of the irrigation potential of the identified water bodies largely through community-managed ponds and tanks.