



## Small Water Enterprise Alliance

A Safe Water Network India Initiative

# SEWAH MONTHLY UPDATE

ISSUE - I (January 2021)

## Welcome 2021 - A New Beginning

2021 brings with itself immense hope as the world recovers from the worst crisis in decades. As India gears up for the largest vaccination drive in the world, we look forward to restoring the country's health and economy and resume the development works.

Through the year 2020, **Project SEWAH** continued persistently in its efforts to create WASH awareness, disseminating best practices and developing knowledge networks and tools to progress the cause of provision and adoption of safe drinking water in urban poor communities. We are thankful to the **Government of India, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and several Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** across the country for their relentless support in enabling us to implement our projects to serve the urban poor masses.

## Towards Attaining UN SDG 6.0

India ranks 115 out of 162 countries in terms of SDGs performance according to the report 'SDG Index Report 2019' released by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. In terms of SDG 6.0 achievement, India scores 56.6% which needs to be significantly improved considering India's population and growth in demand in domestic water consumption. The Government of India has launched several flagship schemes such as **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** and **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** to provide piped water connections in urban and rural areas of India.

**Project SEWAH** has been actively working towards fulfilling SDG 6.0 specifically in terms of **targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, and 6.b**. SEWAH will continue working on these sub-goals through its various projects in 2021 as well.

## Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)

In a major development, the Union Government is all set to launch a flagship scheme under which the households in the urban areas with less than 1 lakh population will be provided regular water supply and tap water connections. The **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)** is expected to earmark ₹ 1.35 crores for the program and the period of implementation would be 5 years.

By implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban), the planning gap in the provision of water supply will be bridged. So far, the tap water connections in the rural households were being provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission whereas the Atal Mission of Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) covered households in cities with a population over 1 lakh.

Project SEWAH welcomes the Government of India's decision to implement JJM (Urban) in towns with a population of less than 1 lakh people. **Safe Water Network India has been recognized as a strategic advisor** by the MoHUA for the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) program.

## SEWAH Initiatives

**PROJECT SEWAH:** Project SEWAH, abbreviated for Sustainable Enterprises for Water And Health, is a joint collaboration between Safe Water Network India and USAID to strengthen the journey towards self-reliance in Urban Drinking Water through the multiplier effect of knowledge hub and by leveraging the SWE Alliance. The project aims to create a legacy of a sustainable and reliable safe drinking water footprint in the urban cities to accelerate the SDG 6.1 by developing capacities of the citizens, PHED engineers, SWE implementers, and other stakeholders in the ecosystem so that SWEs are sustainably delivering safe drinking water reliably to the local communities.

### SEWAH WKRC Beneficiaries Speak...



Consumers and regular beneficiaries share their experience on how their lives were transformed through the JanaJal's Urban Water ATM and how the establishment of the Water Knowledge Resource Center (WKRC) at the ATM has enhanced their knowledge about the importance of safe drinking water and keeping good health. JanaJal, one of the significant WKRC partners of the Project SEWAH, launched its first WKRC Urban Water ATM in Surat city of Gujarat State in August 2020.

Satish, a Mobile Shop owner mentioned the easy-to-use technology, while he makes payments through QR code system. The auto-mode feature allows for 24x7 water accessibility. The WKRC regularly disseminates information about safety protocols to its customers.

Amit, a Sanitation Worker is also a regular customer, who stays on the ATM campus, is well-acquainted about the benefits of safe drinking water, and advocates the water to be used for his daily potable water needs.

Shubhangi, is working as a cook in the nearby canteen who regularly uses the ATM water for drinking and cooking purposes. Shubhangi informs she is very satisfied with the water quality and collects 20 liters of water every day to meet her requirements.

### SEWAH Supporting National Corona Vaccine Immunization Drive through WKRCs in cities

The SEWAH Program joins hands with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to support the Government of India's largest vaccination program that was launched in India on January 16th this year. SEWAH had leveraged the Urban Water ATMs as Water Knowledge Resource Centers (WKRCs) for connecting citizens to the ULBs and empowering them in water governance and WASH. These WKRCs stepped up to support advocacy, creating mass awareness amongst the frontline workers on the Corona Vaccination initiative. The program currently supports the Corona Vaccine drive in 10 cities through its partners: Waterlife India, WaterHealth India, JanaJal, and Rite Water Solutions in alignment with the Central Government and the City Municipal Corporations in the states of Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh..



### SEWAH partner Maithri Aquatech gets recognition for innovation



The SEWAH program, an Alliance between Safe Water Network and USAID, is expected to reach additional 2000 beneficiaries in the city of Vizag through Maithri Aquatech's upcoming pilot Water Knowledge Resource Center (WKRC) launch in mid-February 2021.

**Maithri Aquatech, one of the SEWAH's WKRC partners** has recently developed an innovative and sustainable, patented solution '**MEGHDOOT**', capable of generating healthy mineral-enriched water from the air and has recently won the prestigious '**FICCI Smart Urban Innovation Award**' among 58 nominees, in the 'Smart Water category' for its unique and one of a kind '**MEGHDOOT Water from Air Kiosks**' project installed at a railway station. This award was given to Maithri Aquatech virtually by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The Smart Urban Innovation Awards under the theme 'The Future of Urban Transformation' promotes innovation as part of its mandate as scalable models for public services in all Smart Cities.

With the WKRC Urban Water ATM launch in Vizag city, the SEWAH program with its other WKRC partners will expand its geographical outreach to **60,000 beneficiaries through 16 WKRCs** (of the planned 17) in 10 cities across the country.

## AMRUT Mission Updates

The **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** is a flagship scheme of the Government of India that focuses on water supply, sewage management, stormwater drainage to reduce flooding, green space, non-motorized urban transport.

The Government has selected over 500 cities under the scheme to implement 11 reforms. The criterion for the selection of the cities are the following:

1. The cities with a population of more than 1 lakh
2. All the capital cities that are not covered in the above criteria
3. 10 cities from islands, tourist destinations, and the Hill States
4. 13 cities on rivers with a population of more than 75000 and less than 1 lakh.
5. All the cities that are classified as Heritage cities under the HRIDAY scheme

### AMRUT Highlights in January 2021

Projects worth ₹ 4842 crores awarded in Gujarat

Projects worth ₹ 2524 crores awarded in Haryana

Projects worth ₹ 5077 crores awarded in Karnataka

Projects worth ₹ 7826 crores awarded in Maharashtra

Projects worth ₹ 3560 crores awarded in West Bengal

Projects worth ₹ 3330 crores awarded in Andhra Pradesh

Projects worth ₹ 1615 crores awarded in Jharkhand

Projects worth ₹ 1704 crores awarded in Odisha

Projects worth ₹ 9777 crores awarded in Uttar Pradesh

## Monthly news & updates

### Digital water infrastructure to help India become water independent

India continues to be worse off as compared to other countries in terms of access to safe water according to the UN-Water Index with over 120 million households in India still lacking access to safe water. The situation threatens to worsen further with India's overall population expected to touch 1.6 billion by 2050, and with the pandemic further increasing the pressure on the already strained water resources. ... [Read More](#)

### 1 Million Dead in 25 Years: Arsenic Contamination is Increasing Cancer Risks Across 200 Indian Cities

Seventy-year-old Priya Brath Sharma from Bihar's Munger district, who has been bedridden for many years, is one among a million cases of arsenic poisoning reported in India. "I have stopped walking for

many years as the lower body doesn't move. I also went to AIIMS for treatment some years back, they said that it was Arsenic-related disease," he said... [Read More](#)

**Jal Shakti Ministry selected JanaJal WOW for it's Jal Jeevan Mission | Interview with the CEO**  
Bhoomika Singh, talking to Dr. Parag Agarwal, CEO and Founder of the innovative water startup, JanaJal WOW (Water on Wheels). WOW is a water ATM deployed on an electric vehicle, delivers purified water at doorsteps for Rs. 1 per litre. It has been selected for the Jal Jeevan Mission of India's Jal Shakti Ministry among top 5 technologies. ... [Read More](#)

**Clean Water to Drink and Groundwater: Health Minister Stresses on Twin Pillars of Conservation**  
Mission Paani kicked off to a start on Wednesday with Union Ministers and celebrities coming together along with water warriors to take a pledge to save water. Speaking at the inaugural session of the Mission Paani Waterthon held by Network18 and Harpic on Wednesday, Union Cabinet Minister in Ministry of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat lauded the campaign and emphasized the need for all to take up the cause of water conservation... [Read More](#)

**Jal shakti ministry reviews water resources projects across the nation**

The Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria, took a review meeting of the Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) on Monday and urged its functionaries to further step up efforts towards making India self-reliant... [Read More](#)



Small  
Water  
Enterprise  
Alliance



Honeywell

**SEWAH** Sustainable Enterprises for Water And Health  
A Joint Alliance between USAID and Safe Water Network India