



## Safe Water Enterprise Alliance

A Safe Water Network India Initiative

### SEWAH MONTHLY UPDATE

ISSUE - XI (November 2021)

## World Toilet Day

World Toilet Day was observed all over the world on November 19, 2021. The theme of World Toilet Day 2021 was 'Valuing Toilets'. According to the United Nations, toilets and their support systems are neglected or poorly managed in many parts of the world. The undermaintained toilets lead to undesirable impacts on health and the environment. Several agencies and organizations across the world worked to deliver this message and create WASH awareness. SEWAH partners conducted several grassroots activities to disseminate the message of keeping toilets clean and hygienic.



## 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.

## 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.

## Global Toilet Day Celebrations

World Toilet Day was celebrated at 35 WKRC sites, on 19 November 2021. WKRC Partners conducted awareness workshops for kids, community members, and Aanganwadi Sevikas to disseminate the importance of clean sanitation, dos & donts of toilet use, and hand hygiene after using the toilet. Hygiene kits were also distributed among the beneficiaries which included soaps, sanitizers, toothbrushes, and toilet cleaners. People were also taught how and when to use these products and the positive impact these products could have on their health and wellbeing.



## Pani Pe Charcha - Clean Water Talks

The 11th Clean Water Talk in the e-talk series 'Paani Pe Charcha' was delivered by Ms. Priyanka Singh from WaterAid on November 9, 2021. She discussed the importance of Source Sustainability and Environment Protection at the Water ATMs.



## Women and Water Webinar

The Women & Water Webinar was conducted on November 8, 2021. The event witnessed the participation of over 100 sector partners and audience members.

On the panel, there was Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York; Ms. Veena Reddy, Mission Director,

USAID India, Ms. Poonam Sewak, Trustee & VP – Programs & Partnerships, SWNI, and Ms. Nisha Biswal, President, US-India Business Council.

The panel discussed the importance and need to include women in the WASH workforce globally, through empowerment, outreach activities, and innovative interventions.



Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal (left) and Safe Water Network's Vice-President of Programs and Partnerships in India Poonam Sewak at the virtual event "Women and Water: Entrepreneurship and Empowerment through Better Access" held on November 8, 2021.

## 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 November 2021

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (MoHUA) and AMRUT 2 mission expressed their intention to use public-private partnerships in at least 10% of city water plans in cities with over a million-plus population. The mission also announced its intention to launch an app called 'AMRUTAM' to verify and fund water connections.

## Jal Jeevan Mission

**Progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission:** Over 16 lakh connections were provided in November taking the total number of connections to over 5.35 crores since the launch of the mission. Over 83 districts are 100% FHTC districts.

The United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) helps the Jal Jeevan Mission in 11 districts of Uttar Pradesh. UNOPS formed a participatory approach for 'Community-Led Action for Sanitary Surveillance' (CLASS) to address the water quality issues. Under this approach, local community and grassroots functionaries mutually support each other in water quality monitoring. A similar app called 'Jal Seva Mobile Application' has been developed by the Department of drinking water and sanitation (DWSS) and Govt. of Punjab to geo tag the DWSS asessts, monitoring water supply and water quality.

## Monthly news & updates

### Access to safe drinking water is the key to preventing diarrhoea deaths

Lack of access to clean drinking water is behind many water-borne diseases in India. Diarrhoea contributed to an average of 15.5 percent of total deaths (130 crore) in the

country from 1990-2016, according to the Health of the Nation Survey conducted by the Union Health Ministry in 2016. Studies link higher prevalence of diarrhoea to unsafe drinking water, lack of sanitation facilities and low socioeconomic status of the affected people...[Read More](#)

### **Urban poor lack access to safe drinking water as cities face water scarcity**

The Central and State governments have been consistently trying to improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in both urban and rural areas. Despite the efforts and different schemes a large section of people from poor socio-economic background are yet to get access to safe drinking water and sanitation. A large number of disadvantaged communities, especially in urban slums, across the country lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)"... [Read More](#)

### **5.5 cr households got drinking water supply, says Shekhawat**

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Wednesday said the government provided drinking water supply to 5.5 crore households since the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission despite all odds posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Addressing the 5th ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards and India Sanitation Conclave, he said a total of 8.5 crore households have drinking water supply at their home now... [Read More](#)

### **Safe Water Network event highlights roles of women in clean water supply chain**

Virtual event brings together key stakeholders to explore the intersection of gender and water and share how its social entrepreneurship approach is addressing the issue...[Read More](#)

### **Govt targeting 6000 water testing laboratories by 2022: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, government of India, said that in a move that can completely transform the drinking water sector, the government has put up water-quality testing infrastructure available to every village to improve service in terms of quantity, quality, and regularity, by instituting 2000 water testing laboratories and targeting 6000 laboratories in the coming years... [Read More](#)

### **Water board working to reduce sewage complaints**

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, the government of India, said that in a move that can completely transform the drinking water sector, the government has put up water-quality testing infrastructure available to every village to improve service in terms of quantity, quality, and regularity, by instituting 2000 water testing laboratories and targeting 6000 laboratories in the coming year...[Read More](#)

### **Housing ministry to launch app for verification and funding of water connections**

Almost 10% of the city water action plans of million-plus cities should be coming from public-private partnerships (PPPs) Under AMRUT 2, according to D Thara, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation - AMRUT), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. AMRUTAM app will be launched soon for verification and funding of water connections. Thara said that India needs a water platform to unify stakeholders... [Read More](#)

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

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