# SWANITI EDGE

NEWSLETTER

dr.

## Swaniti Initiative

### **Round Up**

(Snippets of activities being conducted amongst projects in June 2022)

#### Maharashtra State Team

The MH team has approached phase 3 of the project and started the recommendation building and implementation process. There have been credible progress in MoU with Chandrapur and Pune to kickstart it. The team members have ensured bottom-up planning and community engagement through regular field visits. The team had the opportunity to work with the M&E team and develop a progress report. Additionally, the team is in the final stages of data collection in the Nandurbar district and data analysis is taking place for the 1500 Household surveys collected in Chandrapur, Amravati, and Nagpur.



#### **Deoghar DMFT PMU**

Under Project PANCHHI( Protection against numerous Child-related health and hazardous issues) the DMFT-PMU team in collaboration with District Child Protection Unit and Civil society organisations conducted a one-day training session for all the Child welfare protection officers on POCSO, child marriage, child labour, and child trafficking. The training was aimed at increasing awareness about the issues and ways to improve the situation.



#### West Bengal

Knowledge exchange with Pradhan - Rangali Bazna GP, Alipurduar on the state of Aadhar and ST certificates of tea garden workers, scheme implementation challenges and grievance redressal mechanism.

#### **DMFT Chatra**

Construction work in 9 Model Schools is completed. Library materials, Computers, Science Labs, Musical instruments and gardening tools have been supplied in these 9 schools.

### Jharkhand-RESET Project

"This World Environment Day came to us with a wake-up call of '**Only One Earth**' as the campaign slogan. Through our humble efforts, the JH-RESET team is aiming toward living in harmony with nature in a sustainable way. In this regard, the team conducted the following activities.

### 1. Awareness and Capacity Building

On the 6th of June, 2022, an awareness and outreach session was facilitated by the JH-RESET team, wherein officials from Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency provided detailed information regarding the Solar Street Lights initiative and addressed the queries raised by the Green Associates.

On the 7th of June, 2022, an awareness drive regarding PM KUSUM (Component B) was organized by Swaniti Initiative in the Pakur district. The session was attended by farmers and officials of the Department of Agriculture and Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS).



#### 2. Solar-Based Irrigation

With a consolidated target of more than 5000 solar water pumps across the 12 districts of Jharkhand under JH-RESET, more than 4000 beneficiaries have been identified across these districts.

#### 3. Solar Lights

Across the districts of Bokaro, Chatra, Dhanbad, and West Singhbhum more than 1900 solar street lights are targeted to be installed, of which around 450 have been installed. Further, currently, 99 locations have been identified for the installation of high mast solar lights across 5 districts.

### 4. Solar Cold Storage

Across 9 districts, 9 locations have been identified for the installation of cold storage of which the installation process has begun at Bokaro district..

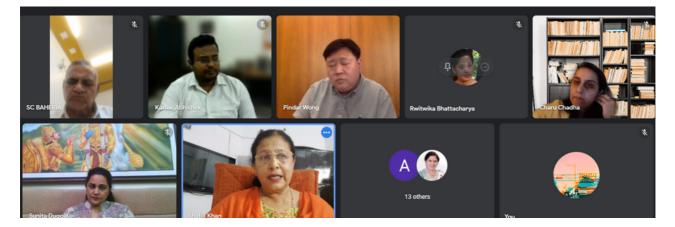
### DMFT Ramgarh

Construction of indoor stadium along with gym has been partially completed, Upgradation of medical facilities in Sadar Hospital, Ramgarh through the purchase of necessary medical equipment and other essential items. The construction of the volleyball court is in progress and soon the indoor stadium will be fully operational for playing and fitness activities.



### **Parliamentary Engagement**

Swaniti Organized a virtual Roundtable Conference on "How is Governance affected by the widespread use of technology? A Framework for Policy Makers". The roundtable witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 24 Hon'ble MPs. The focus of the discussion centered around the customization of technology to accommodate the diversity of our country and how the global alliance needs to be activated for its consultative address. We extend our sincerest gratitude to Hon'ble MPs for their participation and continuous support.



### **Success Stories**

(Celebrating milestones achieved by teams in June 2022)

#### Jharkhand RESET Project

To effectively manage and combat the waste- especially plastic waste- accumulated post elections, the state election commission of Jharkhand has made a resolve to adopt greener solutions for the election process. For the same, our associate, Sumit Kumar has facilitated in finalizing the objectives of the project which involve, inter alia, training and capacity building of the election officers, safe collection and proper disposal of waste, and reduction in the usage of single-use plastic in the process.

The recently concluded Panchayat by-election held on 23rd June 2022, had witnessed an uptake of a handsome number of green initiatives. From replacing plastic cups with mud kulhads, to successfully running a plantation drive, and reducing the use of plastic in food packaging, a definitive step toward sustainable election processes has been undertaken.

Further, awareness drives regarding the reduction of plastic waste, establishment of garbage collection points with proper segregation, and formation of model green booths per block are being conceptualized.



#### Maharashtra

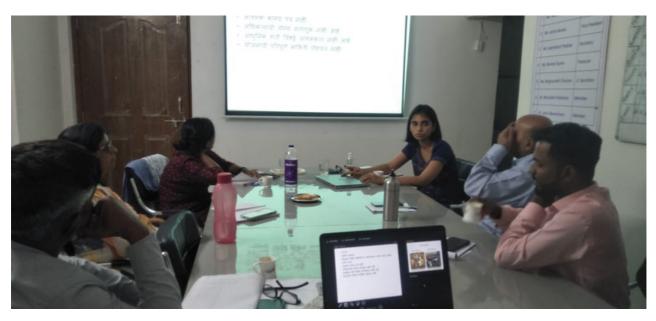
Swaniti successfully completed one year since the inception of the project in Maharashtra. The annual report was drafted and submitted. In addition, enumeration in Chandrapur, Nagpur, and Amravati has successfully completed 1500 valid household surveys and 100 valid focus group studies were submitted in the span of three months. The district intervention hub is in the process of being set up in Nandurbar, Chandrapur, and Pune.



### **Teams in Action**



JH-RESET associate, Puneet Bansal, visited the villages in Koderma and Domchhanch blocks to encourage people to start water conservation and plantation works under Gram Swavlamban Yojana. As a next step, the livelihood profile of these villages will be mapped to enhance the same, and introduce opportunities that are sustainable



Shruti Vasudevan (Senior Analyst) along with one of our CSO representatives conducted an FGD in Siddeshwar Gond Basti in the city of Nagpur. The discussion was the final data collected for the baseline study in Chandrapur, Nagpur, and Amravati districts. Karishma V (Vertical lead, Social protection) and Shruti Vasudevan visited the district CSOs and discussed the intervention hub for the region.



Sujay Pan (Data and Policy Analyst), Aarti Salve (Senior Associate), Pranav Chaudhari (District associate) along with one of our CSO representatives visited SHGs in Bothli village in Saoli block. A group discussion was conducted to understand the workings of the SHGs in the village. The district Associate also visited the Agriculture office, Pombhurna block to conduct interviews with local government representative.



Jayshree Sapkale (District Associate) conducted an FGD amongst the agriculture labourers of Thanavihir, Akkalkuva block along with our CSO representative in the Nandurbar district.

### **Our Colleagues in Spotlight**

# Vivek Kumar, Project Lead - Chatra spoke at Anubhav Lecture Series as an expert speaker

Vivek Kumar, Project Lead - Chatra was invited as an expert speaker in the Anubhav Lecture Series, South Asia (ALS) organised by the University of Chicago. ALS 2022 had a panel of distinguished expert speakers such as Radhika Gupta, Punam Sahgal, Shamika Ravi, Shruti Bhimsaria and Luis Miranda.

Vivek spoke on the subject of "District Mining Fund (DMF) in Times of Crisis" in which he shared his experience of handling the District Mineral Funds for holistic development of communities impacted by mining activities while working in tandem with district administration.



## Chetanaya Sawhney, Vertical Lead of Energy Transition spoke at a state-level consultation on 'Building a climate-resilient Jharkhand'

Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) organised a state-level consultation on 21 June 2022, regarding 'Building a climate-resilient Jharkhand' which was attended by highranking government officials from the Forest Department, Wasteland Development Board, Pollution Control Board, and Agriculture Department, and from prominent industries and research institutions, Jharkhand. Chetanaya Sawhney, vertical lead of Energy transition was one of the panellists who spoke about 'Strengthening the climate governance in Jharkhand'. He touched upon the anthropogenic and natural causes of climate change, he also emphasized Jharkhand's current state with respect to climate change, and how we could possibly build a roadmap by detailing out 7 checkpoints, focusing mainly on energy transition.



### **Insight Papers**

### Green Jobs Part II & II

Author: Daniel Flynn

Emphasizing and prioritizing employment as a part of such sustainable initiatives is at the core of the concept of "green jobs," and should also include a focus on marginalized communities and individuals at risk of losing livelihoods to climate change and the changes that will need to be made to mitigate its effects.

Read the paper here.

### **Top Policy Updates of the Month**

### NFHS-5: Marking transformation in a billion lives

"The key takeaway from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) is that an increasing number of women are empowered and making or participating in decisions that directly affect or involve them"

### MoU signed between India and the UAE on cooperation in the field of industries and advanced technologies

MoU signed between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in areas including strengthening the supply chain resilience of industries, renewable energy efficiency, health and life sciences, space systems, artificial intelligence, standardisation, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, and halal certification.

#### India, Israel, US, UAE are I2U2, summit in July

US President Joe Biden will host a virtual summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to West Asia from July 13 to 16. The centre stage of the summit will be topics such as security cooperation, technological hubs, and food security

#### **Environment Performance Index**

India ranked at the bottom of EPI 2022, with a paltry score of 18.9. The low EPI scores indicate the need for greater attention to the spectrum of sustainability requirements, with a highpriority focus on critical issues such as air and water quality, biodiversity, and climate change

# Union Cabinet approves the registration of cooperative societies as 'Buyers' on the Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) Platform

The Union Cabinet has now approved the registration of cooperative societies as buyers on the GeM platform. This will enable them to access more than 45 lakh vendors on a single platform and to follow a procurement system which is transparent, efficient and economic. The Ministry of Cooperation is also encouraging Multi-State Cooperative Societies and Cooperative Societies registered under State Cooperative Acts to join the GeM platform for the benefit of their members.

### उन्मुक्त- Annual Meet

Swaniti Initiative organised a two-day annual meet उन्मुक्त at the Constitution Club Of India which was attended by Team Members who are in Leadership positions of the organisation heading ventures across the country. The programme was focused on team-building and knowledge exchange. The opening address was given by Rwitwika Bhattacharya, CEO, Swaniti Initiative where she discussed the organisational objectives, new programs, keeping up with changing paradigms and the way forward. She emphasised the importance of creating clusters of good governance for which upscaling initiatives, tracking impact and building leadership were unanimously agreed upon as critical factors. The session was followed by a session by Shantanu Agarwal, Advisor, Swaniti Initiative, focusing on Talent Management, Leadership Development, Organisational Systems and Processes and integration of technology to achieve better efficiency and outcomes.



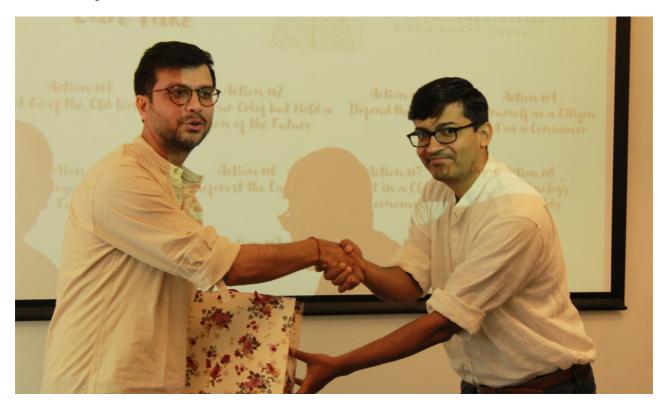
Ipshita Sinha Programme Manager, Laudes India spearheaded the session on Programme Design. She shared valuable insights from her years of experience in the industry stressing the importance of bringing a professional approach to designing organizations and programmes to achieve expected outcomes. An effective programme design she said, "should be a mix of short-term and long-term goals, and the feedback loop is of paramount importance".

The session on Internal and External Communication was conducted by Mr. Rana Pujari Manager - South Asia Government Relations at Climate Group. He walked the team through effective practices that can be incorporated into the organisation's communication strategy to strengthen the digital presence and ensure a seamless flow of information with all stakeholders. Citing real-world examples from his experiences while working across the world, he thought with the team on how to leverage the new media platforms to spread awareness about the programmes and engage with the audience.

On the second day of the उन्मुक्त annual meet, we were delighted to have Megha Pradhan Director at CLEAR South Asia and Associate Director Training at J-PAL spending time with team members on Monitoring and Evaluation where she focused on how various methods can be used to measure impact in the long run and how the theory of change can be a defining variable in the whole journey towards creating impact.

Gaurav Bhattacharya, COO, Swaniti Initiative further emphasized on the ways and impact of meaningful partnerships. He shared his insights on how the untapped network can be leveraged to institutionalize partnerships with governments and foundations. He focused on ways to create impact while scaling up projects and programs for strong governance structures and a sustainable world.

Ankit Raj, CPO, Swaniti Initiative conducted a session focusing on the integration of visions and organisational systems while making a people-centric organization. He shared his insights on strengthening organizational processes and a sense of purpose in the people of the organisation while ensuring a strong alignment on the larger goal of nation-building. He underlined that focusing on 3P - People, Partners and Processes can work as game-changers for achieving the vision.







### **Meet Your New Work Buddies**



Rahul Goklani Green Associate, Jharkhand Joining Date: 1 June 2022



Shubham Jha Senior Associate, Chhattisgarh Joining Date: 24 June 2022



Shubham Kumar Associate- Jharkhand Joining Date: 20 June 2022



Ankit Pandey Senior Associate Joining Date: 1 July 2022



Anurag Shekhar Civil Engineer, Ramgarh Joining Date: 1 June 2022



Shweta Kumari Associate- Jharkhand Joining Date: 20 June 2022



Dr. Ruby Gloria Project Officer, Ranchi Joining Date: 30 June 2022



Ayushi Maheshwari Assistant Manager- L&D Joining Date: 1 July 2022

### What are We Watching/Reading

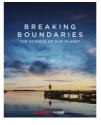
(Lets share our favourite playlists, shows and books)





**Modern Love Mumbai** Platform: Amazon Prime

Recommendation by Panchali Banerjee Project Manager, West Bengal



**Animal Farm** Author: George Orwell

Recommendation by Drishya Zachariah Senior Analyst



**Joji** Platform: Amazon Prime

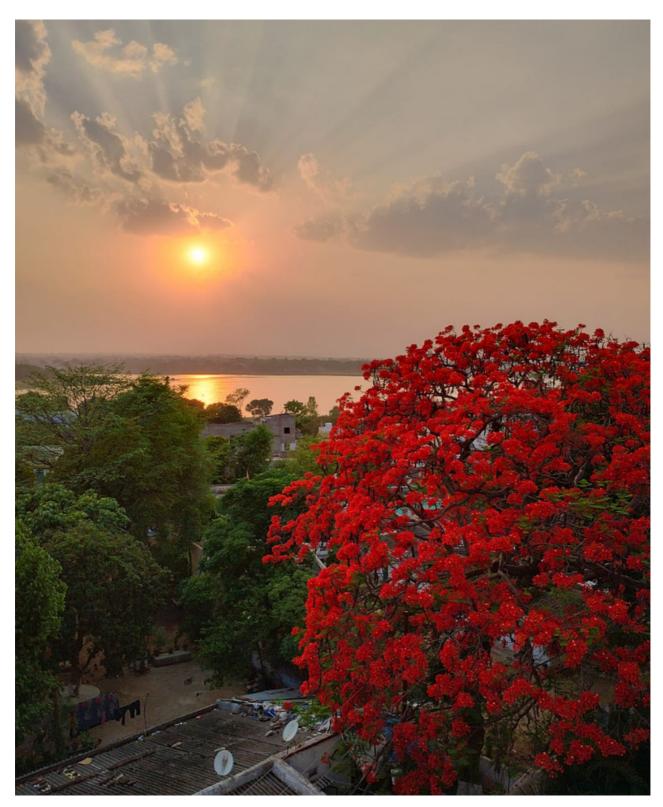
Recommendation by Vivek Kumar Team Lead, Chatra



**Kaithi** Platform: Disney+ Hotstar

Recommendation by: Shruti Vasudevan Policy Analyst

### Photo of the Month



"Even the Sun directs our gaze away from itself and to the life illumined by it.' –Eberhard Arnold

Photo Courtesy: Chetanaya Sawhney

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Swaniti Initiative is a non-partisan social enterprise that delivers development solutions to legislators and governments. The organisation focuses on the issues of climate and sustainability, energy transition, livelihood, social protection, policy reform, human welfare and governance. The vision of the organization is to facilitate evidence based policy making and further help the government utilise its resource with utmost efficiency to ensure development of the community at the last mile.



Swaniti Initiative 13/14, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi, India

www.swaniti.com