

# NEWSLETTER

# SWANITI EDGE

## ABOUT SWANITI EDGE

As we enter 2023, Swaniti's focus is on the goal of reaching the last-mile beneficiary by supporting state and district administration, providing technical support, and engaging with the parliamentarians.

**Swaniti Edge** intends to bring together teams and curate free-flowing discussions to encourage knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and innovation.

With an ever expanding pool of projects and teams, Swaniti will work on consolidating growth and streamlining systems in this new year. This year we will be focussing inwards on Swaniti's employees and its consolidation



# WHAT'S NEW@SWANITI

Highlights@ Swaniti

Knowledge creation

Assam@Swaniti

Jharkhand@Swaniti

West Bengal@Swaniti

L&D @Swaniti

Inhouse Insights@Swaniti

Townhall@Swaniti

Pictures of the Month

New Members @ Swaniti



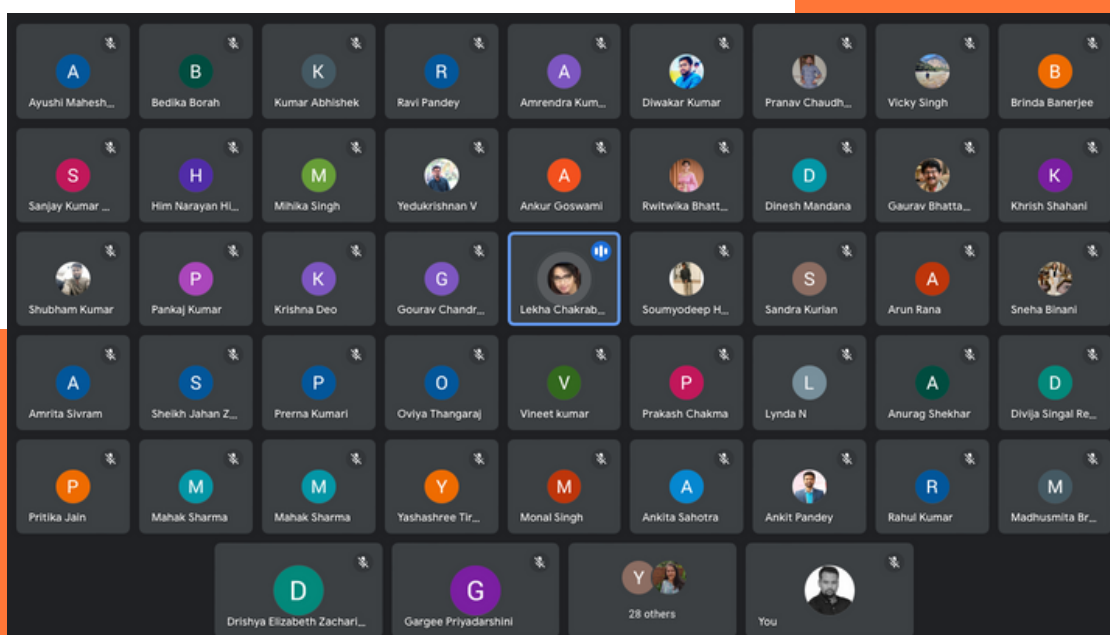


# HIGHLIGHTS @SWANITI

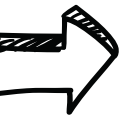
## REBOOT HOUR

### BUDGET SESSION with *Dr. Lekha Chakraborty*

A Session was conducted on the financial budget for 2023 with Dr. Lekha Chakraborty. She is a professor at the National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP) and elected Member of the Governing Board of Management, International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF) Munich. She was a pioneer in institutionalizing Gender Budgeting in India, with Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India in 2004. The session was conducted to build the capacity of the team members at Swaniti, as a major part of our work consists of engaging with the Parliamentarians and working with district and state governments; making it essential for the teams to develop a deeper understanding of the financial budget. Reboot Hour is an internal initiative for the team members to engage with an external speaker on themes and disciplines around their work including - policy, budget, governance, rural livelihoods, social protection, and gender among others.



# HIGHLIGHTS @SWANITI



## REWARDS & RECOGNITION

### DEOGARH MART

*won the award for "Excellence in Good Governance" by The Indian Express*

Deogarh Mart has been recognized as a prototype signifying 'Excellence in Good Governance' by The Indian Express under the theme of Medium small and micro enterprises (MSME). The District Magistrate of Deogarh received this award, as it was an initiative to celebrate the finest District Magistrates in the country.

Deogarh Mart is an initiative to provide a state-of-the-art multi-vendor e-commerce marketplace for locals of Deoghar. The market brought forth e-commerce to several small-scale enterprises in the region including SHGs, artisans, shops, and other micro-enterprises in and around the district. The project has been recognized for the convergence of different departments to create an efficient and streamlined process exemplifying good governance. Data collection combined with technical support paved the way for good governance through the Deogarh Mart in the state of Jharkhand.

Team members at Swaniti have played an instrumental role in realizing the idea of Deogarh Mart, along with the district administration. We are celebrating the efforts of Swaniti team members and alumni - Chinmay Patil, Kiran Chappa, Ravi Pandey, Amrita Singh, and Astha Joshi.

**Bokar** and **Jamtara** were also among the districts that were awarded by the Indian Express for *Energy* and *Education* respectively. The recognition acknowledged the work of the district in the sector, and the efforts of the District Magistrate to innovate in governance inturn reaching out to the last mile beneficiary.



Manjunath Bhajantri being awarded for 'Deogarh Mart' by Hon'ble Amit Shah, Union Home Minister. The initiative came at a time when the pandemic hit MSME industry, and reduced the income of entrepreneurs significantly; therefore it proved to be a lifeline for several MSMEs.

# KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Knowledge creation is one of the major paths of growth and we promote insights and research pieces of our team members.

## This is also a way to get featured!

## INDIA'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS REQUIRE ACTIVATED DISTRICT



ANKIT RAJ | JANUARY 5, 2023 | THE SWANITI BLOG

## India's Climate Commitments Require Activated District...

Read More 

## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) - ASIA PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE



ANKIT PANDEY | JANUARY 4, 2023 | THE SWANITI  
BLOG

## Education For Sustainable Development(ESD) –Asia Pacific Perspective

Read More 

***The fundamental requirement to achieve sustainable development is meticulous planning. The government must secure empowered participation of local governments to address issues like Climate Change.***

*Ankit Raj (CPO, Swaniti Initiative)*

The paper was authored by Ankit Raj and the insight piece provides an overview of how the administrative machinery of the country can tap the potential of Institutions of Local Self Government (ILSG) effectively to implement the macro plans on climate change. The article throws light on how the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) may play a key role in achieving India's globally committed climate goals.

## READ MORE

***The goal of higher education should be to intensify efforts to create a more sustainable future for everyone by conducting relevant research and building capacity in the areas of sustainability.***

Ankit Pandey, Senior Associate, Climate & Sustainability

This article is authored by Ankit Pandey from Swaniti. The article outlines how the Asia-Pacific region is expanding exponentially, and have an opportunity to transform its growth patterns by completely incorporating sustainable development (SD) and education for sustainable development (ESD) concepts into its policies, development strategies, and project implementation.

**READ MORE**

## GREEN JOBS & SUSTAINABILITY - PART II



JANUARY 6, 2023

### Green Job & Sustainability Paper – Part II

The first installment of this three-part series provided an examination of the defining criteria of green jobs, includi...

Read More →

***The loss and damage fund might be an answer to the long-drawn tug-of-war between the developed and the developing world over #climatechange accountability***

*Daniel Flynn (Manager, Research Team) & Ruchika Mehrotra (Intern, Policy & Communications)*

The article outlines India's policy towards climate change and the shifts that may be required after this landmark decision at COP 27. It is authored by Daniel Flynn (Manager, Research, Swaniti) and Ruchika Mehrotra (Intern, Policy & Communications, Swaniti) elaborates on the domestic policy shifts including structural and systemic shifts that India would be required to make, to fulfill its global commitments.

#### **READ MORE**

## THE EMERGING CARBON MARKET IN INDIA



JANUARY 12, 2023

### The Emerging Carbon Market in India

Climate change can be seen as a market failure for a number of reasons, and reducing greenhouse gas emissio...

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***India has taken long strides to combat climate change.***

*Daniel Flynn (Manager, Research Team)*

This paper provides an overview of government approaches at the state and national levels and outlines key takeaways on addressing climate change. It also highlights the need for government schemes and policies to have a continued impact on the ground as communities and individuals are at risk of being affected the most.

#### **READ MORE**

## GREEN JOBS AND SUSTAINABILITY PAPER - III



**For every green job created, there are an additional 1.4 jobs created elsewhere in the economy.**

*Daniel Flynn (Manager, Research Team)*

The paper briefly discusses the current circumstances surrounding green jobs in South Asia and what is the way forward for the future of Green Jobs. We hope the series helped you in conceptualizing an understanding of green jobs. and studied to build a more robust sports policy for the country. The author delves deeper into the subject through these two critical questions around green jobs - Are incentives enough to promote green jobs? If not, how must the governments prioritize the trajectory of green jobs to enable the future?

**[READ MORE](#)**

## INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL, 2022



**The Indian Telecommunications sector has long been waiting for modernization and regularization with the fast-paced changing technology in communication services.**

*Daniel Flynn (Manager, Research Team)*

The paper outlines the key outcomes of the bill including the necessary changes that may affect the functioning of OTT platforms and create a level playing field for other service providers and enhance coverage, especially in rural areas. The bill has been long overdue, and it brings forth some necessary regulations in light of the increasing presence of OTT services & communications. The paper also dives into some of the challenges that the bill poses, including the scope of government oversight of the telecom industry in several important and potentially impactful ways raising the question - Whether the Bill creates more ambiguity around privacy, putting it at odds with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

**[READ MORE](#)**



## Jorhat

The team from Swaniti is identifying existing gaps in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) at Jorhat, Assam. The team conducted a training for all Gram Rozgar Sewaks (GRS) and Gram Sakhis (GS) wherein they were oriented on the grievances of the community with regards to MGNREGA including unemployment benefits, the procedure to create work demand, how to maintain documentation and other related issues around the scheme. One of the primary challenges faced by the GRS was the process of documentation since some Gram Panchayats (GP) did not maintain a register for documentation. The team has managed to create a total of 189 work demands, and we will be creating an effective grievance redressal mechanism to resolve the queries. These awareness drives are helping the team build a rapport within the community in order to understand the existing challenges of the workers, to tackle implementation gaps in MGNREGA within the region.



*Training of Gram Rozgar Sewaks*

*Training of Gram Sakhis*





## >> Ramgarh

### *Construction of a bridge*

The PMU-DMFT team at Ramgarh identified the challenge to mobility for the community in Mandu Block due to the lack of connectivity to cross the Chutua River. The team proposed the construction of a bridge, and the district administration of the region constructed a bridge over the river in Kenduwar.

The bridge has come as a relief to the residents of the village across the river, as it has reduced the distance between Mandu and the district headquarters by 10-12 km. The bridge proved to be instrumental in connecting the communities living alongside Mandu to the market, and provided them access to health facilities as well. The bridge has proved to be a significant development for the residents of Kenduwar who had to travel long distances to access basic facilities and services. Additionally, the construction of bridge has made it easier for the farmers to transport their produce to the market, which has led to an increase in income for several families. The bridge is a symbol of progress and development for the communities in the region and will continue to support the communities in getting access to basic amenities, markets, and health infrastructure around the district.



# WEST BENGAL @SWANITI

## >> *Camps for the tea garden communities*

The tea plantation industry is the largest employer in the formal private sector in West Bengal with more than 4.5 lakh workers. Swaniti Initiative has been working in 15 selected tea gardens in West Bengal to strengthen tea garden workers' awareness, access, and inclusion in social protection schemes. The team conducted a survey to identify existing gaps, and it was evident that tea garden workers are unable to access benefits from social protection schemes owing to errors in identification proofs and documents (Aadhaar & Case Certificates). To resolve the issue, the team organized an Aadhar card correction & enrolment camp in collaboration with the Department of Posts, West Bengal, and Digital Empowerment Foundation. A total of **346** beneficiaries were reached out through the camp from which **277** updated their Aadhar Cards and **69** applied for new Aadhar cards. Tea garden workers are unaware of the process and requirements for Aadhar correction thus there is a need for intervention so that they can avail of government schemes. In the upcoming months, the team will be conducting similar camps in three other tea gardens in Darjeeling.



Awareness Camp at Balasun  
Tea Garden

Documents and Identification  
proof verified at the camp

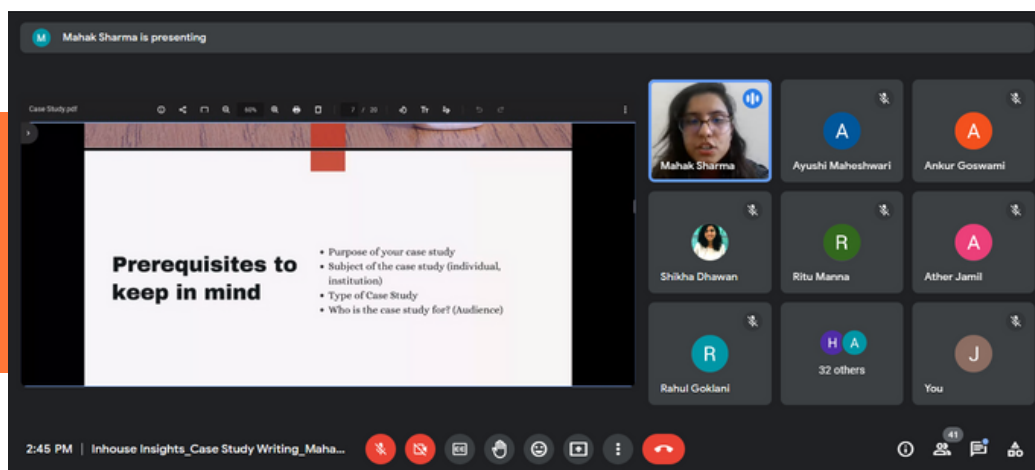


## Inhouse Insights

Inhouse Insights is an initiative to bring experts from within the organization and provide them a platform to share their knowledge & learnings. Swaniti has grown tremendously over the last few years, and we want to focus on the personal and professional growth of our employees through such initiatives. An in-house insight was organized with **Mahak Sharma** on the **Case Study Writing** with the team members. This is also a platform for Swaniti team members to showcase their expertise, learning, and experience within their respective sector.

Mahak conducted the session on 'Case Study Writing' on 19th January with 48 registrations and 42 people attending the session. This session covered several aspects of Case Study Writing, starting from defining case studies to the types of case studies and the critical aspects that are pertinent to writing an engaging case study.

We will continue to hold such inhouse insights in the future.



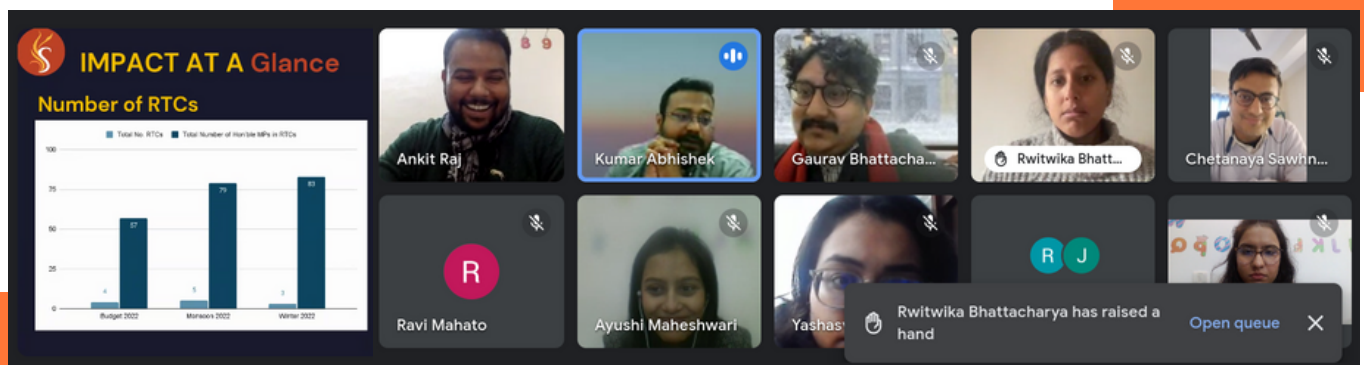
For any feedback, please feel free to write to [ayushi.m@swaniti.in](mailto:ayushi.m@swaniti.in). If you are interested to take a session on an area of expertise, please get in touch with Ayushi Maheshwari at [ayushi.m@swaniti.in](mailto:ayushi.m@swaniti.in)



# TOWNHALL @SWANITI

*Town hall meetings are a platform to create better synergy between different teams and encourage a **spirit of collaboration, learning, and knowledge sharing** within the organization.*

This year's first **Town Hall** meeting was moderated by the Policy Engagement team. The vertical is focused on providing research, documentation, and technical support to the Members of Parliament (MPs). The town hall was moderated by **Abhishek** where he spoke about how the team has worked with 100+ MPs and organized Roundtables with them, in addition to being part of Committees like the Parliamentary Group for Children (PGCA). The Policy Engagement team highlighted their process of engaging with the MPs and different milestones achieved in the last year. The team also spoke about how the team can collaborate with different verticals, to be able to align projects with different MPs. As this was the first Town Hall of the year, announcements were made after the end of the session about reforms in employee policies including - complete coverage of health insurance and increase in leaves.



*Swaniti team coming together to attend the Town Hall Meeting*

# Pictures of the Month



*Interview with tea garden workers on MGNREGA as the workers raise hands to show that they have not received job cards despite applying at the GP office*

Picture by: **Sneha, Senior Associate**

Project: **Naharibari Tea Estate, Golaghat, Assam**

*Understanding the Work Demand mechanism and people's participation in the process of preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).*



Picture by: **Lynda, Senior Associate**

Project: **Jorhat, Assam**

# NEW @SWANITI



**Brinda Banerjee**  
*New Delhi*  
Associate



**Akhil Dwivedi**  
*Jharkhand*  
Project Officer



**Ravi Mahato**  
*Maharashtra*  
Associate



**Pankaj Kumar**  
*Jharkhand*  
Data Entry Operator



**Krishna Deo**  
*Tripura*  
Project Manager



**Ritwik Gupta**  
*Jharkhand*  
Analyst



**Gourav Chandravanshi**  
*Jharkhand*  
Project Officer



**Gargee Priyadarshini**  
*New Delhi*  
Associate



**Prakash Chakma**  
*Tripura*  
Associate



**Yashashree Prakash Tirmare,**  
*Tripura*  
Associate



**Debanjally Mondal,**  
*Jharkhand*  
Project Officer - Health



**Khrish Salani,**  
*Delhi*  
Associate