

An initiative by NFSSM Alliance for dissemination of latest policy and research articles, workshops, trainings and learning events on FSSM across India

National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance was convened in January 2016 with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build national consensus around faecal sludge and septage management. The Alliance works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and comprises of numerous national organizations across the country working towards sanitation solutions for India.



Announcements

NATIONAL

1. The Finance Minister announced the launch of a five-year long Phase 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban in the annual budget to focus extensively on complete faecal sludge management in all Urban Local Bodies with a population of less than 1 lakh
2. MoHUA's Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, launched on World Toilet Day in 2020, aiming to prevent hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by promoting their mechanised cleaning. The challenge is seeing extensive on-ground participation from 246 Urban Local Bodies, which will be assessed by an independent agency in May 2021 followed by announcement of the results in August 2021



3. Recommendations by the NFSSM Alliance and engagement with the 15th Finance Commission towards empowering local governments has yielded in acceptance of 6 recommendations by the Finance Commission. These include big wins for the sector including inclusion of FSSM in sanitation grants, increase in allocation of united grants to ULBs, emphasis on instituting State Finance Commissions and strengthening of ongoing monitoring of service delivery through Service Level Benchmarks. To know more, read [here](#)

STATES

- a. FSSM in Berhampur has been one of the two shortlisted urban initiatives in the top 15 at the 2020 Guangzhou International Awards for Urban Innovation as an exemplary model of innovative policy implementation, environmental sustainability and inclusivity for women



- b. Janaagraha's support to MoHUA in implementation of Jaga Mission 2.0 in 19 ULBs having 58 slums with 75,000 households includes training Slum Dwellers Associations, junior engineers and ULB staff, along with monitoring implementation of slum upgradation works



- a. A Tanker Operators' Association has been formed in Kanpur by 31 private members by signing an MoU with the Municipal Corporation for safe collection and disposal of faecal sludge

- b. 40 tankers in Lucknow have been branded with the same color and design by PSI to promote the awareness and association of septic tank cleaning in the city

- c. The 'Malasur' and 'Safai Nahin toh Suraksha Nahin' campaigns for Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge has been developed by BBC Media Action for MoHUA



Women SHGs, specially-abled groups and the transgender communities have been handed over the operation & maintenance responsibilities, basis contracts and training by ASCI, at the 80 newly constructed public toilets under the Pattana Pragathi Program of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation



The state of Uttarakhand has notified the 'Advisory on operationalising septage protocol' which was supported by SCBP. This will provide step by step directions to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in developing and operationalizing effective city-level septage management plan as per the 'Protocol for Septage Management-2017'. This advisory will help the ULBs in identifying a viable septage management solution based on the existing sanitation situation and available infrastructure

NEW FSTPs

1. A 30 KLD capacity Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant was inaugurated in Siddipet town in Telangana
2. Four FSTPs at Kovilpatti, Dharapuram, Kangeyam, and Sengottai were inaugurated in Tamil Nadu
3. Odisha is now gearing up to complete the construction of 70 Septage Treatment Plants (SeTPs) across the State by 2021. While 30 SeTPs are expected to become operational by mid of this year, the rest will be completed by the end of this year
4. Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh, announced opening of its co-treatment facility to treat 150 KLD per day in its existing 30 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant



Other

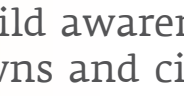
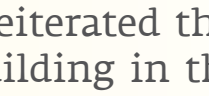
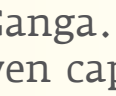
Athena Infonomics, in partnership with Open Capital Advisors, is developing an investment tool for the urban sanitation market, under the FCDO-IMPACT Programme. The objective of developing this tool is to help increase the volume and distribution of development capital to viable and impactful sanitation business enterprises. The market research report can be found [here](#).



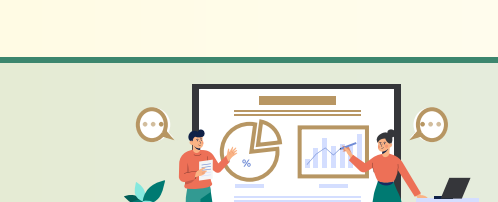
Webinars



A webinar on 'Strengthening Capacity of ULBs in Planning & Implementation of FSSM across Cities and Towns of Ganga Basin' was organized to focus on leveraging FSSM to reduce pollution levels in Ganga. It also reiterated the need to build awareness on FSSM implementation-driven capacity building in the Ganga towns and cities. [Access the webinar recording here](#)



A series on 'Policy Labs, Urban Poor Communities and Covid-19: New Urban WASH Priorities for South Asian Governments' was organised to bring together researchers and practitioners from the global WASH community to deliberate on various WASH aspects. [Access the recording here](#)



Training Programmes



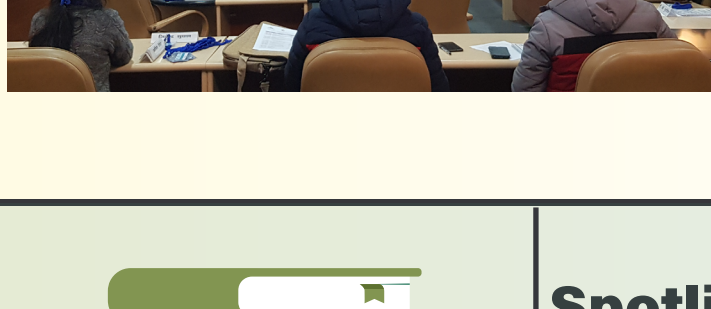
Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh, provided training to desludging operators and registered 22 private septic tank operators. Orientation was also provided to Sanitation and Environment Secretaries so that they could encourage residents for periodic desludging

National level Capacity Building Program for Skill Development in FSSM conducted by WASHi, supported by USAID, BMGF, HCL Foundation, and ITC. This program aims to create an enabling ecosystem by building capacities and strengthening demand & supply side of the sanitation value chain

Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge Training led by FSM TSU, WASHi and UMC in Odisha, and by CDMA & ASCI in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. Over 1000 Safaimitras in each state have been trained so far on personal hygiene, safety health, usage of PPE, helpline number etc



An advanced-level training program was conducted with ATI, Nainital on the topic of co-treatment of faecal sludge and septage with sewage in sewage treatment plant. The target audience were engineers from the parastatal bodies of Uttarakhand. The purpose of this training was to give a deep-dive into the conceptualisation, implementation, and designing of a co-treatment facility



Spotlight on Publications



In November 2020, MoHUA released the following publications:

- **Equipment & Workforce Norms for Managing Waterborne Sanitation in India** which covers norms for procurement by ULBs with respect to inspection, cleaning equipment and norms for workers for septic tank & sewer cleaning, amongst others
- **Training Module for Sanitary Workers on Cleaning of Sewer and Septic Tanks** which includes technical aspects of sewer and septic tank maintenance, details of preventive and precautionary measures and associated safety gear for sewer/septic tank cleaning operations

These documents are available on the [Swachh Bharat Urban portal](#)

In January 2021, Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA along with Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Dr K. Rajeswara Rao, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog released a report titled **Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in Urban Areas: Service and Business Models**. Jointly developed by NITI Aayog and the NFSSM Alliance, the book presents 27 case studies across 10 states and various service and business models adopted by Indian cities while implementing FSSM initiatives. [Access the report here](#)



A study conducted by CPR in 2018-19 across ten slums in Bhubaneswar, Odisha to explore to what extent marginalised groups access benefits of sanitation schemes and programmes. The report was released in November 2020 can be [accessed here](#)

India Water Portal published 11 articles based on the case studies and the research learning notes produced as part of Project Nirmal. These articles cover issues such as community engagement, women in sanitation, and regulations around and planning for FSSM