

## Australian Ambassador of Gender Equality visits Bakkarwala

### CONTEXT

- The Australian Ambassador of Gender Equality, Ms. Stephanie Copus Campbell, and Executive Officer to AGE, Ms. Kate Groves, visited Bakkarwala Resettlement colony in May 2023 as a part of AIWASI project.
- The objective of her visit was to understand the work being done in the project, focusing on GEDSI parameters, i.e; socially marginalized, women, and the disabled.



Ambassador of Gender Equality at MHT Center, Bakkarwala

### ACTIVITIES

- Bakkarwala CAG member, Kanki ben, started the discussion by explaining the background and demography of the area, and then other members went on to discuss activities like the process of CAG formation and CBVAT-CBRAP.
- The Ambassador also visited the homes of two CAG members.
- One of them – Neeta ben, is a paralyzed individual. They had a conversation about the challenges she faces due to limited mobility.
- She explained that it is difficult for her to navigate the streets, especially when there is water logging.
- Being included as a CAG member makes her feel empowered. She now feels that her opinions matter and her voice will be heard.



Visit to Neeta ben's home



## ACTIVITIES

- The Ambassador then visited the house of Narayani ben. She is a home-based worker who operates a small tailoring business.
- She is also the sole breadwinner in her family of four, with son who is disabled.
- Narayani ben explained to the Ambassador the basic infrastructure-related issues in the community and how they affect her livelihood.
- After joining Bakkarwala CAG under AIWASI, she is well-informed about how to solve issues like water scarcity, water logging, and solid waste management.



Visit to Narayani ben's home

## OUTCOME

- The Ambassador described her visit as extremely valuable, informative, and emotionally moving.
- She appreciated the inclusion and active participation of the disabled and socially marginalized in the decision-making process based on GEDSI principles.
- She added that the visit reflected the previous 1.5 years of work, and it was clear that the CAG's understanding of water scarcity and climate change had been enhanced through the program.



Seema ben, CAG member explaining water quality testing process