Pani Haq Samiti (PHS) was initially conceptualised as a movement (Mumbai Pani and Pani Haq Abhiyan) against the plan to privatise water distribution in Mumbai’s K-East ward on a pilot basis in 2006 by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). Today it comprises community members and leaders, social activists, academicians, journalists, and subject experts. Since inception, PHS has been actively involved in advocating for the legal right to water. After the landmark judgement by the Bombay High Court that recognized “Right to Water” for all, PHS has been working towards ensuring the implementation of the same. So far, we have been able to get legal water connections in 655 households. In light of the particularly trying times we are currently facing, the need to uphold the constitutional ethos and the pillars of our democracy is even greater. The fight continues, and we call for your support so that we may be further empowered to connect Indian citizens with their fundamental rights as per the constitution.

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If you would like to join our efforts in any manner, please write to us at panihaq@gmail.com
Website: panihaqsamiti.org

Zindabad!
Team, Pani Haq Samiti
January 2021

Water connections being installed for the first time in Bhim Nagar, Mankhurd, Mumbai on 24 Feb 2020; a community in existence for 20 years and struggling for formal water connections for over a decade. Photo: Vishal Jadhav

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02.01 - Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti
03.01 - Savitribai Phule Jayanti
10.01 - Executive Circular issued by Hydraulic Engineer Dept. as per Water for All Policy
12.01 - Swami Vivekananda Jayanti, National Youth Day, Rajmata Jijau Jayanti
16.01 - Wadala Transit Camp First Connection
23.01 - World Day of Social Justice
26.01 - Republic Day
28.01 - Lala Lajpat Rai Jayanti
30.01 - Martyr’s Day

Water is for Life!
Not for Profit!
On February 10, 2010, Pani Haq Samiti was formed with the vision of Universal Access to safe drinking water. PHS draws inspiration from the Mahad Satyagrah of 20th March 1927 where Dr. Ambedkar led masses of Dalits to the Chavdar Lake in Mahad, Maharashtra to assert their right to water.
Pani Haq Samiti believes in the Constitution and works towards relief in keeping with Constitutional values. When our memorandums and applications for access to water in informal settlements were ignored, we organised a rally on March 22, 2011 to demand attention to the situation. This was the first of many actions.
A member of the homeless community in Kandivali fills water from an overflowing valve in the ground from which water is released periodically to relieve pressure in the pipelines. Photo: Prachi Adesara
Kaula Bunder, a settlement in South Mumbai, settled even before the country became independent, received their first ever water connection on May 20, 2019. This was made possible by the persistent follow up with the Mumbai Port Trust by PHS.
Residents of Siddharth Nagar, Andheri, conduct a Dussehra puja while other residents fill water from the BMC tanker pictured behind. Photo: Prachi Adesara

Water is for Life!
Not for Profit!

03.06 - Gautam Nagar gets first water connection
05.06 - World Environment Day
08.06 - World Ocean’s Day
12.06 - Anti Child Labour Day
20.06 - World Refugee Day
26.06 - Social Justice Day
Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Jayanti

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Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Jayanti
Inside a home in Ambedkar Nagar, Malad, Mumbai. Since this informal settlement is on forest land, a NoC is required from the authorities to install a water connection. This is proving to be difficult to obtain which means the residents must live without a regular supply of water. Photo: Vishal Jadhav

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18.07 - Nelson Mandela Day, Annabhau Sathe Smruti Din
23.07 - Chandrashekhar Azad Jayanti
28.07 - Human Right to Water and Sanitation Day

Water is for Life!
Not for Profit!
Charity or right? Residents of Siddharth Nagar in Andheri West are subject to infrequent and limited supply of potable water despite the threat of COVID-19 spread. Photo: Suraj Katra
A child carries water back to their makeshift home in Kandivali East, Mumbai. There is no water source that they can access for their water needs. Sometimes they fill water from a hole in the ground which houses a broken pipe, and other times they must walk long distances searching for a source of water. Photo: Pooja Kamble
Residents of the homeless community near Western Express Highway, Andheri. Having no access to water means having to spend a major part of their income on buying drinking water. Photo: Pooja Kamble
On November 28, 2016, PHS led the Pani Pilao Abhiyan wherein residents of informal settlements brought bottles of water from the sources they had access to, to give to the Municipal Commissioner. This abhiyan was to drive home the point that if BMC officials was not willing to drink that water, they must be willing to provide water connections providing safe drinking water.
On December 15, 2014, the Mumbai High Court issued a historic judgement equating the Right to Water with the Right to Life. This judgement was in response to a PIL filed by the Pani Haq Samiti in 2012 which believes in Universal Access to Safe Drinking Water.