



Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department



Women play a crucial role in implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) & the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Every day, they work tirelessly to maintain village cleanliness and ensure access to safe drinking water in rural areas. Recognizing their invaluable contributions, International Women's Day 2025 was *celebrated across all 31 districts of Karnataka* to honor women working in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

Women's Day Celebration

Honoring Women in Water,
Sanitation, and Hygiene
karnataka



Celebrations Across Karnataka

Karnataka witnessed special Women's Day celebrations to honor the hard work and dedication of women in the water and sanitation sector. The celebrations took place from March 8 to March 14, recognizing the invaluable contributions of women working in Swachh Complexes, garbage collection, waste transportation, water supply, and sanitation services.

As part of the event, these women were felicitated for their efforts in maintaining cleanliness and ensuring better sanitation facilities. Additionally, athletes who have excelled at the state and national levels, ASHA workers, and members of GPLF self-help groups were honored for their role in improving health and hygiene in rural communities. The celebrations served as a tribute to their dedication and commitment to building a cleaner and healthier Karnataka.

Activities & Competitions

As part of the celebrations, a wide range of activities and competitions were held, including:

- ▶ WASH Run – Community run by women champions & sanitation workers
- ▶ Felicitation Ceremony – Recognizing outstanding women leaders in WASH
- ▶ Mahila Special Gram Sabha
- ▶ Street plays & cultural performances on WASH
- ▶ Panel discussions & storytelling sessions
- ▶ Training on menstrual hygiene (MHM) & FTK water testing
- ▶ Tableau showcasing WASH themes
- ▶ Fairs featuring SHG-led sanitation innovations
- ▶ Share inspiring stories of women in rural WASH
- ▶ Exhibitions on Swachh Bharat Mission (SBMG) & Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)



Winners of these competitions were recognized and awarded for their participation.



Special Programs

In addition to the general celebrations, several special initiatives were undertaken:

Health, Empowerment & Sustainability Workshop:

A special workshop was conducted at MRF Nitte, Yedapadavu, Bantwala & Puttur. During the event, **100 menstrual cups** (each costing ₹300) were distributed **free of cost** to waste workers of MRF & SLRM units.



Special Mahila Grama Sabha:

In celebration of International Women's Day, every Grama Panchayat across the district organized a Special Mahila Grama Sabha to honor and empower women working in the water and sanitation sector. This event served as a platform to recognize the invaluable contributions of women in ensuring clean water supply, sanitation management, and hygiene practices in their communities.

Felicitation of Awareness Leaders: Women who led awareness programs under the Swachh Bharat Mission in various Gram Panchayats of Gadag district were honored for their outstanding contributions.

Launch of Mahila Swachh Gram Panchayat Abhiyan: On this occasion, the Mahila Swachh Gram Panchayat Abhiyan was launched in Irasavadi Gram Panchayat, Chamarajanagar Taluk & District, further emphasizing women's leadership in sanitation and cleanliness initiatives.



The Driving Force Behind the Success of Women's Day Celebrations Across Karnataka

The Women's Day celebrations across Karnataka have been a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department and the unwavering support of Zilla Panchayats in every district.

Here are some inspiring glimpses of women who played a pivotal role in making this celebration a grand success across Karnataka!

Activities	Number of Activities organized in District	No of women Participated
WASH Run – Community run by women champions & sanitation workers	420	21,707
Felicitation Ceremony – Recognizing outstanding women leaders in WASH	509	983 (No of women felicitated)
Mahila Special Gram Sabha	2388	1,42,165
Street plays & cultural performances on WASH	90	25,097
Panel discussions & storytelling sessions	330	7417
Training on menstrual hygiene (MHM) & FTK water testing	541	17,809
Tableau showcasing WASH themes	9	2066
Fairs featuring SHG-led sanitation innovations	154	7767
Share inspiring stories of women in rural WASH	31	-----
Video bytes of WASH awardees & event reels	26	-----
Other Activity	59	-----

International Women's Day 2025 in Karnataka was not just a celebration but a tribute to the unwavering commitment of women in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector. Their efforts continue to bring sustainable change to rural communities, ensuring a cleaner, healthier, and more empowered future for all.