

## **Dr Shashikant Mishra inaugurates Piramal Sarvajal's water purification set-up in Rakhigarhi**

*Piramal's initiative to promote pure drinking water to villagers thereby creating a positive impact on their health*

**Hisar - Haryana, 15 July 2014:** Piramal Sarvajal, an initiative under Piramal Foundation recently announced the installation of a COCO Piramal Sarvajal plant in Rakhigarhi - a village in the Hisar district of the state of Haryana around 150 kilometres from Delhi.

In May 2012, the Global Heritage Fund, declared Rakhigarhi as one of the 10 most endangered heritage sites in Asia. Archaeologists in 1963, discovered that the village was the site of the largest known city of the historic Indus Valley civilization, a city that was much larger and more ancient than Harappa and Mohenjodaro sites. Since 1997, the Archaeological Survey of India has undertaken a detailed excavation of the site, recovering numerous artefacts, some over 5,000 years old.

Piramal Sarvajal extended its support to Rakhigarhi as the quality of water in Rakhigarhi is extremely poor, with TDS levels between 3,500 to 10,000. This meant that the village didn't have access to clean and pure drinking water, thereby impacting villager's everyday life. Piramal Sarvajal has decided to install a plant with capacity of 500 litres per hour. These purification machines will provide clean affordable drinking water to 500 families (2500 people), on a daily basis across the village.

The Piramal Sarvajal plant was inaugurated by **Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Retd. IAS, the Former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India, Padma Bhushan Awardee and former Chairman of INTACH**. The event was also attended by other senior representatives of Piramal Sarvajal such as C.E.O Vasu Padmnabhan, C.O.O. Anuj Sharma and Head of Rural Operations' Harish Manwani. In the run up to inauguration, door-to-door community awareness drive had been organized along with a school competition on water-health linkages. 12 best performing children and their families were felicitated and were awarded month-long Sarvajal water subscription for free. Speaking at the inauguration of the COCO Piramal Sarvajal plant in Rakhigarhi, Dr. Shashikant Mishra said, "Piramal Foundation has always been associated with protecting the culture and heritage of India. Hence when they decided to support the village of Rakhigarhi which is set to rewrite the 5000 year old history of our civilization, by installing water purification facility, I agreed to be present here. It is indeed a noble cause that will go a long way in bettering the lives of the people of Rakhigarhi"

Piramal Sarvajal an initiative under Piramal Foundation has been dedicatedly delivering affordable and healthier solutions to the drinking water crisis in the villages and small towns of Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat since 2008. The project Piramal Sarvajal that started in 2008 runs community level water solutions including Water ATMs that are today providing affordable clean drinking water to more than 141, 000 people on a daily basis.

Piramal Sarvajal presently operates in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In New Delhi, Piramal Sarvajal has its plants at the leading hospital AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Science) for their out-patient department; a clear testament of the quality of water provided. Piramal Sarvajal is working in partnership with Delhi Jal Board to provide water to slums and settlement with no-piped water supply, this urban initiative will soon be reaching out to approximately 50,000 users.

**About Piramal Foundation:**

Piramal Foundation strongly believes that there are several untapped innovative solutions that can address India's most pressing problems. Piramal Foundation plays an impactful role in implementing and facilitating such projects. Each social project that is chosen to be funded and nurtured by the Piramal Foundation fits into one of the four broad areas – healthcare, education, livelihood creation and youth empowerment. The Foundation strives to develop transformative, scalable and replicable solutions to address issues that are critical roadblocks towards unlocking India's economic potential.

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