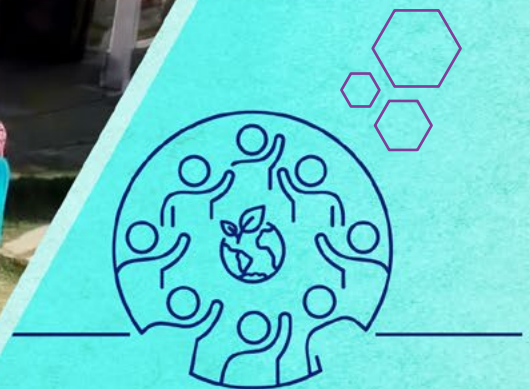


SWACHHATA SAMACHAR

Volume 5 | Issue 34



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Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)



Sh. C. R. Patil

From Hon'ble Union Minister

Under the visionary and inspirational leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, SBM(G) has established itself as the world's largest mass movement that has provided a new direction to behavioral change in the field of cleanliness. It has ensured permanent and positive transformation in the lives of the countrymen. We must intensify monitoring and field verification in this final year of SBM(G) Phase II, with special focus on ODF Plus (Model) outcomes, FSM, retrofitting of single-pit toilets, asset functionality, quality fund utilization and elimination of beneficiary duplication. At the same time, we should promote innovative LWM solutions and greywater reuse and expedite the 2nd verification process.

SBM(G) Review Meeting, April 2026



Sh. V. Somanna

From Hon'ble Union Minister of State

We are moving from ODF to ODF Plus (Model) . The Jan Andolan of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), started by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is evolving into holistic Swachhata paradigm with focus on solid, liquid and plastic waste management. Our endeavour is to empower rural communities in maintaining our villages clean and green.

SBM(G) Review Meeting, January 2026



Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)



Sh. Ashok K K Meena
From the Secretary's Desk

As we enter the final year of SBM(G) Phase II, the focus is on achieving saturation of all remaining villages as ODF Plus (Model), along with their timely completion of verifications. As of 31st March 2026, over 5 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus (Model), with more than 93% coverage in grey-water management and over 90% in solid waste management. The way forward must look at ensuring visual cleanliness, strengthening Gram Panchayats and prioritizing O&M of all assets to sustain rural sanitation outcomes.

National Scheme Sanctioning Committee Meeting on 7th April 2026



Smt. Aishvarya Singh
Joint Secretary & Mission Director

As we move into FY 2026–27, which is the final year of SBM(G) Phase II, the focus should be on expediting declaration of remaining villages as ODF Plus (Model) villages as per guidelines, completing pending verifications and ensuring saturation under various components of the programme. Strengthening FSM compliance in our villages also has to be prioritised by States/UTs. Ensuring compliance of SWM Rules, 2026 and orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard is another aspect that requires immediate attention of all stakeholders. Self-sustainable and financially viable O&M mechanisms have to be put in place to ensure durability of assets created under the program.

National Scheme Sanctioning Committee Meeting on 7th April 2026



A. Programme Highlights

Month End Overview

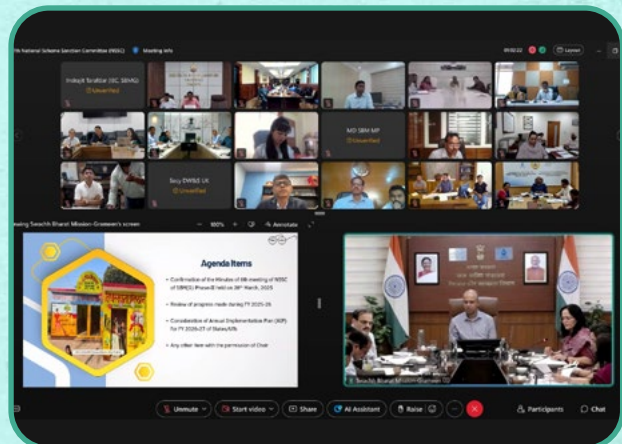
As on 30th April, 2026

ODF PLUS MODEL

- ODF Plus (Model) declared villages: **Over 5.02 lakh**
- Villages reported having arrangements for Solid Waste Management: **Over 5.32 lakh**
- Villages reported having arrangements for Greywater Management: **Over 5.51 lakh**
- Blocks covered with Plastic Waste Management Units: **5450**
- Under GOBARdhan, **1145** Community / Cluster level biogas plants under SBM(G) have been constructed since the launch of the scheme.



Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti, delivered the keynote address at the National Workshop organized in New Delhi on the Panchayat Development Plan.



Glimpses from the 7th meeting of the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) under SBM(G) Phase II held in DDWS to discuss and approve the Annual Implementation Plans of all States/UTs for FY 2026-27.



B. Swachhata Pakhwada in April 2026

Participating Ministries /Departments in April as per Swacchata Pakhwada 2026 Calendar

- i. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ii. Ministry of Law & Justice

i. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department of Health & Family Welfare Department of Health Research



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- AIIMS Bhopal observed Swachhata Pakhwada and held a debriefing and closing ceremony on the 15th day.
- AIIMS Rishikesh: The CSSD Department conducted an activity on the safe supply and dispatch of sterilized instruments, and a special cleanliness drive in the car and cycle parking areas of the Medical Building.
- AIIMS Raipur concluded Swachhata Pakhwada 2026 with a prize distribution ceremony.
- VPCI, Delhi: Felicitation of sanitary staff, gardeners and other health workers.
- AIIMS Jodhpur: Awards distributed to winners of various competitions during the valedictory ceremony.
- AIIMS Patna organized a Swachhata rally, a waste-to-art competition, and other activities to promote cleanliness.
- PGIMER, Chandigarh: Felicitation ceremonies for best-performing staff across hospital areas.
- VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital: Concluding ceremony with recognition and rewards.
- JIPMER, Puducherry: Award ceremony held; special cleaning drives conducted across wards, OPDs and ICUs.
- AIIMS Bilaspur concluded the Pakhwada (15 April 2026) with an award ceremony and sharing of best practices.
- MBBS students undertook wall painting on the theme of Swachhata Pakhwada.
- A Swachhata awareness session was held at Eco Park, Mangalagiri, with public participation.
- Capacity-building training was delivered by the CSSD Officer to strengthen performance of outsourced manpower.
- AIIMS Nagpur: Cleanliness drive conducted around the auditorium and nearby academic areas with housekeeping staff.
- Centre for Rural Health, AIIMS – PHC Nutakki conducted Swachhata activities for children, staff, and parents at Godavurru Anganwadi Centre.
- The Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine conducted a Swachhata Pakhwada activity in a tribal school in Kalyani.



B. Swachhata Pakhwada in April 2026

Onground action capturing Swachhata Pakhwada



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: AIIMS Bhopal observed Swachhata Pakhwada and held a debriefing and closing ceremony.



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Felicitation ceremonies for best-performing staff across hospital areas in PGIMER, Chandigarh.



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Swachhata awareness sessions held at Eco Park, Mangalagiri, with public participation.



B. Swachhata Pakhwada in April 2026

ii. Ministry of Law and Justice



- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, led a Shramdaan on 14.04.2026.
- Khadi bags were provided to employees of the Department to encourage their use.
- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal also led a plantation drive at Windsor Place Roundabout, NDMC Park, Janpath, New Delhi.
- Selfie booths were installed at Shastri Bhawan and Kartavya Bhawan-2.
- Swachhata-themed paintings were installed at Kartavya Bhawan-2.
- Signature campaigns were organized among officers and officials of the Department of Legal Affairs.
- Mass Swachhata Pledge and Swachh Bharat Anthem were conducted, along with signature campaigns, Swachhata rangoli and selfie booth activities.

Onground action capturing Swachhata Pakhwada



Ministry of Law & Justice: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal led a plantation drive at NDMC Park in New Delhi



Ministry of Law & Justice: Signature campaigns organized among officers and officials of the Department of Legal Affairs.



Ministry of Law & Justice: Khadi bags provided to employees to encourage its usage.



i. National Scheme Sanctioning Committee Considers Annual Implementation Plans of States/UTs under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-SBM(G) Phase II



The 7th meeting of the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II was held on 7th April 2026 in New Delhi to review and approve the Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) of States/UTs for FY 2026–27. Chaired by Shri Ashok K. K. Meena, Secretary- DDWS, the meeting highlighted the substantial progress achieved so far, with over 5 lakh villages declared ODF Plus (Model), more than 93% villages covered under Greywater Management and over 90% under Solid Waste Management. With this being the final year of Phase II, the focus was firmly placed on achieving saturation across all remaining villages, with a strong emphasis on visual cleanliness and sustaining outcomes at the grassroots level.

The Committee underscored the critical role of Gram Panchayats, strengthened institutional mechanisms like District Water and Sanitation Missions and prioritization of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of assets. Ms. Aishvarya Singh, Joint Secretary & Mission Director SBM(G) outlined key priorities for FY 2026–27 including completion of ODF Plus verification processes, strengthening faecal sludge management, expanding waste management infrastructure and ensuring inclusion of newly emerging households and compliance of SWM Rules, 2026 and orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The meeting concluded with the approval of AIPs for all States/UTs, with a clear call for accelerated implementation, improved data systems and sustained impact as the programme approaches the culmination of SBM(G) Phase II.



ii. DDWS supports Poshan Pakhwada



The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti is supporting the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada being observed from 9th to 23rd April 2026.

The campaign is led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), with a focus on “Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life” and strengthening awareness among families and communities on early childhood care and nutrition.

DDWS has issued guidelines to all States/UTs to align their activities with the broader objectives of the campaign and ensure convergence with ongoing programmes under SBM(G) and JJM. States have been advised to work closely with ICDS, Health Departments and Panchayati Raj Institutions, with a clear focus on Anganwadi Centres as key platforms for community outreach.

As part of its approach, DDWS has emphasised the role of safe water, sanitation and hygiene as essential enablers of improved nutrition outcomes. The campaign is being taken forward under the framework of Sujalam Bharat, linking WASH with early childhood development.

States/UTs have been encouraged to undertake focused activities such as:

- Strengthening access to safe drinking water and sanitation at Anganwadi Centres
- Promoting hand hygiene, safe water practices and regular toilet usage
- Conducting community awareness and engagement activities on WASH
- Using IEC and social media platforms for outreach and documentation

DDWS communication also builds on the directions shared in the MWCD letter, which outlines the broader campaign priorities including maternal and child nutrition, early stimulation, play-based learning, reducing screen time and community participation.



iii. National Panchayati Raj Day 2026: Using Panchayats to Strengthen WASH Outcomes



The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has issued guidance to all States/UTs in support of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's call to observe National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on 24th April 2026. The communication draws from Mo-PR's outreach, which positions NPRD as a platform to recognise the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in grassroots governance and community-led development. Building on this, DDWS has underlined the relevance of Panchayats in delivering and sustaining outcomes under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and Jal Jeevan Mission, where local institutions remain central to last-mile service delivery and community engagement.

States/UTs have been requested to use the occasion to integrate WASH-focused actions at the Gram Panchayat level. This includes facilitating Gram Sabha discussions on water supply, sanitation and hygiene, encouraging collective pledges for sustaining outcomes, and deliberating on certifications such as ODF Plus (Model) and Har Ghar Jal. The direction also calls for community-led cleanliness and upkeep activities, reinforcing behaviour change and ownership of assets. By aligning NPRD activities with ongoing WASH priorities, the guidance seeks to use Panchayati Raj platforms to strengthen institutional processes and sustain outcomes at the village level.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

i. Chhattisgarh: Use of Plastic Waste in Rural Infrastructure



Chhattisgarh is using plastic waste in rural road construction under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in districts such as Mahasamund and Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB). In MCB, a 2 km road from PWD Road to Mendradol via Bhararidand has been constructed using plastic waste sourced from the Chanwaridand unit. The plastic is collected, segregated, cleaned, shredded and mixed with asphalt, increasing road lifespan from 4–5 years to 6–7 years. In 2023–24, three roads covering 5.49 km used plastic mix, with plans for further scale-up.

The model also creates value from waste. In MCB, 2,600 kg of shredded plastic was sold to PWD, generating Rs 65,000, while reducing construction costs by around Rs 30,000 per km. Under SBM(G), plastic is processed through village-level systems and managed by Swachhagrahis, contributing to livelihoods. In Mahasamund, 14 roads (21 km) used plastic mix in 2014–25, with plans to expand to 44 roads (~100 km).

This convergence among Districts in State and between sanitation and infrastructure is a step towards sustaining ODF Plus (Model) outcomes. It demonstrates how waste management systems at the village level can move beyond collection and disposal to resource recovery and reuse.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

ii. 'Swachh Shanivaar', Cleaning Drives in Karnataka



In Karnataka, regular weekly cleaning of traditional water bodies, known as Kalyanis, is carried out as a sustained activity at the local level.

Chikkaballapura district in Karnataka consisting of 157 Gram Panchayats is considered drought-prone and frequently faces water scarcity. To address this concern, the district is undertaking a Kalyani Swachhata Andolan across the district where Kalyanis are cleaned through shramdaan with active participation from the community and local officials. The activity is led by District & Taluk-level officials and involves Gram Panchayat teams, health department staff and other local functionaries.

This is not a one-time activity. The cleaning of kalyanis and other public /community areas is being carried out on weekly basis across the State and has been ongoing for over past 2 years.

The initiative is being implemented in convergence of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with SBM (G) MGNREGA, linking sanitation, water conservation and water source sustainability. Cleaning and maintaining these traditional water structures helps improve water availability, supports groundwater recharge and ensures better hygiene in surrounding areas.

Such efforts highlight how community participation, along with interdepartmental convergence, can help sustain local water bodies while strengthening sanitation outcomes.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

iii. SHG-led Bio-degradable Waste Management Model in Assam



In Nishangram village (Damra GP, Kuchdhowa Block, Goalpara district), Assam, a Self-Help Group-led model is managing solid waste management in the ODF Plus (Model) village. The SHG 'Dandalma' is managing solid waste operations, including door-to-door collection of segregated waste, covering both wet and dry streams. The approach is built around local ownership, with SHG members leading implementation at the village level.

The model has enabled a steady system of user charges, with households contributing Rs. 10–20 per month and shops Rs. 50 per month. Alongside this, compost generated from wet waste is sold at Rs. 5 per kg, while dry recyclables are sold to recyclers at Rs. 15–20 per kg. This has created a regular revenue stream.

Since November 2024, the initiative has generated an income of approximately Rs. 75,000–80,000 for the SHG women, making it both a waste management solution and a source of livelihood.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

iv. Community-level Greywater Management System in Uttar Pradesh



In Telsar Gram Panchayat, Gonda Block of Aligarh district, a community-level greywater management (GWM) system has been implemented through convergence of SBM(G), Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) and MGNREGA funds. The approach focuses on treating greywater at the “end-of-drain” stage, before it is discharged into the community pond. The system includes a Horizontal Planted Bed Reactor, filter chambers and constructed wetlands to enable treatment of wastewater flowing through village drains.

This intervention allows treated greywater to be safely channelled into the pond, contributing to recharge of surface water. It has also supported the upkeep of the pond for community use, including recreational purposes. By addressing wastewater at the drain level, the system reduces stagnation points in the village, contributing to overall visual cleanliness.

The model reflects a convergence-based approach to wastewater management at the community level and can be adopted by other Gram Panchayats with similar drainage patterns.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

v. Transgender SHG-led Faecal Sludge Management operation model in Odisha



Odisha has adopted a transgender-led Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) model at the Basuaghai FSTP in Khordha district. The approach is centred on transgender Self Help Groups managing FSM operations across 10 FSTPs. The model which began at the Basuaghai FSTP, is anchored in the GARIMA framework which ensures occupational health and safety, provision of personal protective equipment, regular health check-ups and insurance coverage for workers.

The model focuses on dignity in sanitation service delivery while ensuring sustainability and inclusivity. It provides social security and creates reliable Operation & Maintenance (O&M) systems for FSTPs, while also enabling inclusive livelihood opportunities for transgender communities.

This convergence model strengthens urban-rural linkages in FSM by ensuring consistent service delivery and institutional support.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

vi. Swachhata Mascot for awareness generation in Tripura



Tripura has introduced a Swachhata Mascot model in Khowai District as an approach to strengthen community engagement on sanitation and waste management under SBM(G).

The model centres around "Nirmal Moti," the official sanitation mascot, inspired by "Moti," the well-known elephant of Khowai. The mascot represents cleanliness, environmental protection and responsible waste management and is used as a relatable medium to connect with local communities.

Through this approach, "Nirmal Moti" is used to engage children and youth, helping deliver simplified sanitation messages in an accessible manner. The mascot actively participates in cleanliness drives, rallies and community events across villages, supporting awareness generation and reinforcing key behaviours related to sanitation and waste management at the community level.



D. On-ground Stories from States/UTs

vii. Gujarat – Balloon Type Biogas Model



Anand District



Kheda District



Gujarat has implemented cluster-based GOBARDhan biogas plants with technical guidance from the National Dairy Development Board and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation. The model focuses on individual household-level balloon type GOBARDhan plants. A total of 6,600 biogas plants of 2 cubic metre per day capacity have been installed, with contributions from NDDDB (5,000), AMUL (600), Sabar Dairy (400), Dudhsagar Dairy (400) and Banas Dairy (200).

The implementation follows a cluster-based approach, with around 200 beneficiaries or families forming a cluster. Each household-level plant generates biogas at a capacity of 2 CuM per day. The model is currently being implemented across 33 districts.

This approach combines decentralized household-level infrastructure with cluster-based implementation and ensures on-site management of cattle dung.



viii. Karnataka-Cluster based Rural FSTP



Karnataka has adopted a cluster-based rural Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) model in Ujre Gram Panchayat, Belthangadi Block of Dakshina Kannada district, focusing on a sustainable FSM model across the value chain. The model uses a nature-based FSTP with planted drying bed technology. The planted drying bed technology treats faecal sludge through natural filtration and drying, with low energy and O&M requirements. The amount of Rs. 82.41 lakh has been utilized from SB-M(G) funds for the FSTP, along with Taluk and Gram Panchayat funds for a suction vehicle.

The system is supported by institutional mechanisms for operations and service delivery. The DWSM Committee reviews FSTP operations and levies fines and penalties. A dedicated mobile number and call centre have been set up to receive desludging service requests, ensuring access and responsiveness at the local level.

Desludging charges are regulated and kept lower than private operators, at Rs. 2,775 for distances up to 10 km and Rs. 3,500 for distances above 10 km. The model also encourages local farmers to use treated sludge, linking waste management with productive reuse.



E. Engagement Section

Decode Swachhata

Unscramble the words below:

R E L Y C E C

T I U M B E N

I I E R C A N T R N O

S E R N G O G E T A I

G R E Y W T A E R

C O S T P O M

S A I A N T O T I N

H N E G E I Y

S K O P I T A

L C E A H P T I

ANSWERS:

- 01 RECYCLE
- 02 BITUMEN
- 03 INCINERATOR
- 04 SEGREGATION

- 05 GREYWATER
- 06 COMPOST
- 07 SANITATION
- 08 HYGIENE

- 09 SOAK PIT
- 10 LEACH PIT





पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर



To contribute to the next issue of the **Swachhata Samachar**,
share your submission before the 15th of every month to sbmiec.ddws@gmail.com



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जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार
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