



# SWACHHATA SAMACHAR

Volume 3 | Issue 8 | September 2023



## Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen Newsletter

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“ Dependence on fossil fuels to meet our energy requirements has significant economic and environmental concerns, in the form of growing import bills and a high carbon footprint. Transitioning to less carbon-intensive energy sources is therefore the need of the hour. It calls for the implementation of GOBARdhan's waste-to-wealth initiatives by which biogas can be produced to assist the nation in meeting growing energy demands while contributing to India's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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**Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**  
Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti



## Programme Highlights

As of August 29, 2023

ODF+

Over 4,31,350 of India's inhabited villages have declared themselves ODF Plus.

- Aspiring: 2,86,724
- Rising: 53,076
- Model: 91,550

2,25,066 villages have arrangements for solid waste management

3,64,464 villages have arrangements for liquid waste management

777 completed GOBARdhan plants across the country

2,207 Plastic Waste Management Units have been established

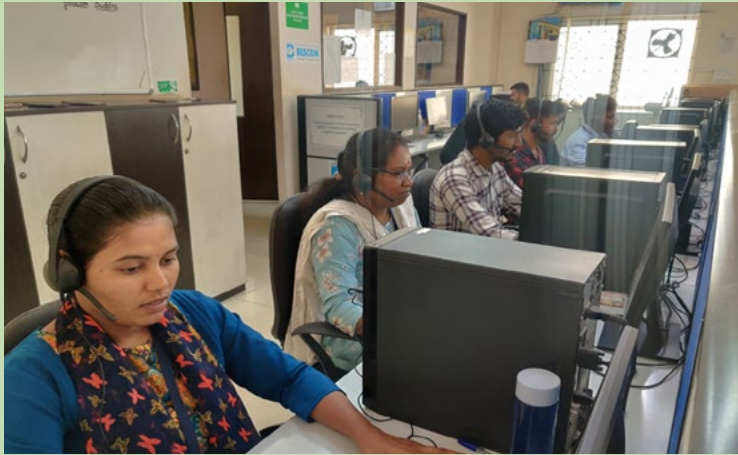
## Swachhata Pakhwada

Swachhata Pakhwada was observed from 1st-15th August by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; Department of Sports; Department of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

From 16th-31st August, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (MoHI) and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs engaged in sanitation activities. MoHI displayed a banner and administered the Swachhata Pledge at their registered office in Kolkata. Further, a special drive against plastic waste involving the collection and segregation of plastic waste from common public places such as parks, markets, etc., was undertaken. At their Tander unit, a swachhata awareness session on cleanliness and an essay writing competition for employees on the topic 'Viksit Bharat Mein Swachhata ka Yogdan' was held. In addition, a drive for the proper disposal of scrap items and appropriate storage of waste materials at the godown was conducted.



## PARIHARA: Karnataka's Grievance Redressal System



Karnataka has put in place a Grievance Redressal System to address complaints of rural people pertaining to water and sanitation and guide them about the services offered by the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD), Government of Karnataka.

Introduced in March 2020, the PARIHARA (Public Access to Responsive and Innovative Handling of Complaints Resolution Application) helpline is a professional call centre, accessible using the number 9480985555 between 6 AM and 10 PM. People can also register their grievances through WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, email, or the PARIHARA Website.

The need: Prior to the setting up of PARIHARA, complaints were received through traditional communication methods, such as postal letters. This took a long time for the complaints to reach the concerned officers and people were unable to track their letters or complaints or reach the concerned officers to have their issues or problems addressed.

People can make complaints about wastewater stagnation, drainage issues, waste management problems, construction and management of community or public toilets, and construction of individual toilets.

To read more, [Click here](#)

Contact: [wsrcpr@gmail.com](mailto:wsrcpr@gmail.com)

## ToT on implementation of SBM-G II in Gujarat



With an aim to strengthen the capacities of the village functionaries regarding sustaining the gains of ODF, their role in ODF Plus, making informed choices about technology options, O&M for long-term sustainability, and activities for achieving desired results, a Training of Trainers (ToT) was held in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat from 1st to 5th August 2023.

The 5-day ToT on implementation of SBM-G II for consultants of IEC, Human Resources and capacity building of the Swachh Bharat Mission

(GIDM).

Grameen (SBM-G) was held at the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM). In total, 39 Master Trainers were trained in the state with the support of UNICEF. This is the second batch of such training organised in Gujarat.

The training included topics that were focussed on creating an understanding of the programme as a whole and also about each component of the programme – Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) to bring about visual cleanliness in villages. It was designed in such a manner that specific scenarios in the state, relevant to the concerned sessions were discussed. It also included activities such as group discussions and presentations by the participants so that crucial content was reflected upon and re-emphasized. The activities built an environment wherein participants discussed the challenges and probable solutions amongst themselves as well. The solutions were then validated by the trainers.

To read more, [Click here](#)

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## Ghar Ghar Shauchalay Abhiyan underway in Chhattisgarh

In a bid to ensure that every household has a toilet and that it is being used by all members of the household, the Ghar Ghar Shauchalay Abhiyan is currently underway in Chhattisgarh.

The campaign is being carried out from 1st June to 15th August 2023.

The launch of the campaign comes against the backdrop of more and more villages achieving ODF Plus. The objective of this particular campaign is to ensure 100 percent sanitation coverage of all rural households with accessibility and usage of toilets.

Ahead of the ODF Sustainability campaign, from 1st to 15th June, applications for individual household toilets were received from families on an online portal via their Gram Panchayat. Thereafter from 15th to 30th of June, applications were verified, and administrative sanctions were given to verified applications.

The state hopes to complete all construction works by 15th August and on 15th August, the Gram panchayats will issue certificates and declare that every household has been covered with toilet facilities in their respective GPs.

To ensure wide publicity for the campaign, to make certain that all households are aware of the call for applications for household toilets, and to encourage them to maintain their toilets, an extensive IEC campaign is being carried out. This is being done through newspaper advertisements, door-to-door publicity, announcements and hoardings.

All Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen staff and other field functionaries of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department have been engaged in this campaign.



To read more, [Click here](#)

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## Debipur village effectively manages waste from dairy farms



WaterAid India with support from Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) and the people of Debipur village in Purba Bardhaman district of West Bengal, in May 2023, designed and implemented a hybrid waste management model to cater to the village's dairy farms.

Debipur village in Memari-I block has 3,400 households, a number of which are engaged in cattle rearing, mainly for milk production. Although the households are connected to the drainage facility, waste from the cattle sheds earlier was disposed of in the open. As a result, the surrounding areas

had an unpleasant atmosphere and stench. The waste generated per day from the 50 households was estimated at around 10,000 litres.

Dairy farming in rural India provides vital milk supplies to people living in villages and cities. However, challenges exist in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene around the farms. Many small-sized farms are located within the vicinity of the villages where the waste generated by cattle is often left to decompose in the open.

The WaterAid India project team in consultation with the local representatives of SBM Grameen constructed a waste management facility at Debipur. The design consists of a settling tank with a capacity of 15,000 litres, a gravel bed along with a recharge trench, and an evapotranspiration bed consisting of perforated pipes. The project cost was supported under SBM Grameen.

The waste management facility has improved the cleanliness of the surrounding areas, including the prevention of mosquito breeding, and reducing the overflow from the site, which clogged the drains.

To read more, [Click here](#)

Contact: [ArchanaPandey@wateraid.org](mailto:ArchanaPandey@wateraid.org)



## Puducherry is ODF Plus

On July 29, 2023, the Union Territory of Puducherry achieved ODF Plus status for all its 108 villages in the districts of Karaikal and Pondicherry.

Of the 108 villages, 92 are in the ODF Plus Aspiring category, 4 are ODF Plus Rising, and 12 are ODF Plus Model category as on July 31, 2023. This translates into 107 villages having arrangements for solid waste management, and 18 villages having arrangements for liquid waste management. Additionally, the state has 108 waste collection and segregation sheds, 23 community soak pits, 108 community compost pits, 11 community sanitary complexes, and 2 functional GOBARdhan plants, as per the IMIS of DDWS.

An ODF Plus village is one that sustains its ODF status and has arrangements in place for the management of solid and liquid waste and is visually clean.



To read more, [Click here](#)

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## Nirmal promotes magic pits to recharge groundwater



In a bid to promote rainwater conservation and groundwater recharge, Nirmal District in Telangana took up mass construction of rainwater harvesting structures. A total of 5,940 rooftop rainwater harvesting structures were installed in one single day at the rate of 15 per Gram Panchayat in 396 villages of 18 Blocks.

During the campaign that took place on 31st July 2023, every rooftop was given a connection to the water tank reservoir or to a recharge structure such as a magic pit.

The initiative, carried out under the leadership of the District Collector was executed by Kothapalli Vijayalakshmi, District Rural Development Officer, Nirmal District. Significantly, the event qualifies for the Limca Book of Records for the most rooftop harvesting structures installed in a single day.

The event saw large-scale community participation with the involvement of personnel from the District Rural Development Agency, and the Panchayati Raj Department who worked together to complete the task on time.

To read more, [Click here](#)

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## Bhagamandala FSTP prevents environmental pollution

Flooding is a common phenomenon every monsoon in Madikeri Block of Kodagu district in Karnataka when the groundwater level rises to 10-20m below the ground level, causing faecal matter to get mixed up with flood water, before eventually draining into the Cauvery River. To address this, a Planted Drying Bed-based Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) was set up in Bhagamandala village in May 2022. The unit effectively treats faecal matter in a safe manner, while preventing environmental pollution.



Madikeri Block in Kodagu district of Karnataka is home to 26 Gram Panchayats (GP) with a host of residential units, commercial establishments, religious centres and other community/public toilets.

Spread across an area of 3,250.55 hectares, Bhagamandala has a population of 1,917 individuals from 1,034 households. The GP is a famous pilgrimage site, given its location close to Talakaveri, the source of River Cauvery that provides water to lakhs of families. This area in Kodagu receives heavy rainfall, particularly during the months of June to September when the river overflows, flooding the villages at least 8 times every year. It is during those times that the blackwater and greywater from households and public toilets situated near the river mix up and pollute the river.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD) of Karnataka was keen to set up an FSTP for the scientific disposal of grey and black water. Following an initial survey, when it was established that conservation of the river and preventing pollution was the responsibility of all, an action plan was prepared and approved by the RDWSD to prevent greywater and blackwater from entering the river.

The FSTP constructed in Kodagu at a cost of ₹2.41 crore, is the first of its kind in rural Karnataka, to protect River Cauvery from pollution.

To read more, [Click here](#)

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## Voice from the State



**Ms. Benu Gurung,**  
Mission Director – SBM-G, Sikkim

### Sikkim becomes an ODF Plus Model State

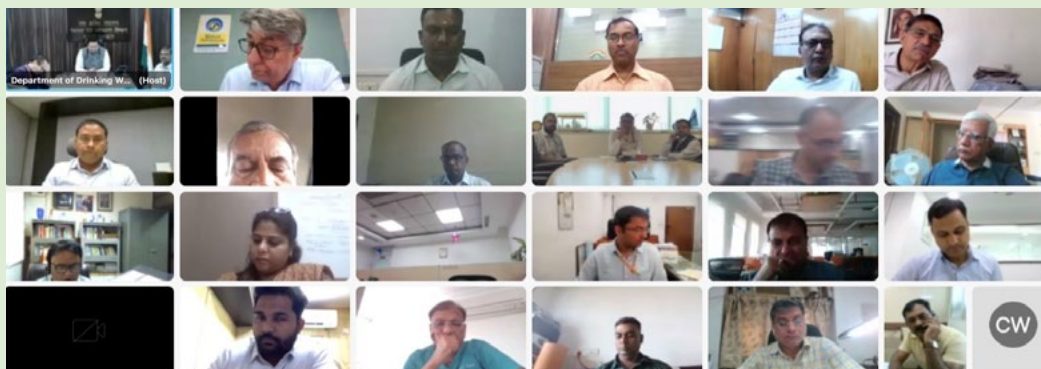
Way back in 2003, Sikkim made a resolution to shift towards organic farming with an aim to stop the usage of chemicals and pesticides in farming. As a result, it became the first organic state in the world and was awarded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Rome. The state was also among the foremost to be declared ODF in May 2016 during Phase-I of SBM-G.

All plans were made for the state which is a part of the Himalayas with a dramatic landscape to be declared an ODF Plus Model state by 15th August 2023. Our plans materialized as all 403 villages in the state, are now in the ODF Plus Model category. The state boasts 100 percent coverage of solid waste management owing to composting of biodegradable waste at the household level and also liquid waste management. Given that single-use plastics have been banned across the state, the use of plastics has been considerably curbed. For the remaining plastic waste that is generated, appropriate disposal mechanisms and forward linkages have been established.



## States/UTs & CBG Proponents attend GOBARdhan Workshop

To acquaint States/UTs with the GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) initiative and facilitate the setting up of biogas/CBG in the country, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti organized a workshop on August 17, 2023.



GOBARdhan is a significant initiative of the Government of India, based on the 'Whole of Government' approach. DDWS is the nodal coordinating department for GOBARdhan, the broad objective being to scientifically treat organic/biodegradable waste to produce compressed natural gas (CBG) and organic manure (both fermented organic manure (FOM) and liquid fermented organic manure (LFOM)) and to promote a circular economy.

In his welcoming remarks, Shri Jitendra Srivastava, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, GOBARdhan set the context for the GOBARdhan initiative which has the potential to achieve multiple objectives including but not limited to increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix, decreasing import dependence, mitigating stubble burning, and managing urban/rural biodegradable waste including agri-residue, cattle waste, etc., all while significantly contributing to India's climate change goals.

To read more, [Click here](#)

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

### FAECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

1. The process of removing sludge from a tank or pit is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A mixture of urine, faeces and flush water is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Retrofitting of toilets involves converting single pit toilets into \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ requires no mechanized emptying, transportation, or treatment.
5. Three technologies for faecal sludge treatment plants are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. DDWS promotes \_\_\_\_\_ convergence for FSM.
7. A shallow pond where microbial action takes place in the presence of oxygen and sunlight is called \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answers

1. Desludging
2. Faecal sludge
3. Twin pit toilets
4. In-situ treatment
5. Planted drying beds, unplanted drying beds, deep row entrenchment
6. Urban-rural
7. Polishing pond



## From the Secretary's Desk



**Smt. Vini Mahajan**

Secretary, Department of Drinking  
Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti

With over 4 lakh villages achieving ODF Plus status, increasing focus is now being given to Faecal Sludge Management through the promotion of urban-rural convergence, including upgrading or retrofitting of existing STPs in urban areas and development of standard operating procedures for states, enabling them to integrate FSM into their action plans. I encourage all states to prioritize FSM planning and implementation which are central to achieving the vision of an ODF Plus India. Further, to ensure more visibility and awareness of the work being done, plans and issues need to be discussed during Gram Sabhas so that the community is aware of all developments.

## From the Mission Director's Desk



**Shri Jitendra Srivastava**

Joint Secretary & Mission Director (SBM-G)  
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
Ministry of Jal Shakti

The idea of a circular economy by which we give waste a new life and invent ways to use and reuse materials is gaining ground in rural India. It is a matter of pride that over 2,100 rural blocks in the country have plastic waste management units. Our communities are becoming increasingly aware that turning to greener alternatives is not only necessary but also affordable and achievable. At the halfway mark of the SDG goals, implementing innovative waste management strategies and reenergizing efforts that are environmentally sustainable, are imperative.

To contribute to the next issue of the **Swachhata Samachar**,  
share your submission before the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to [swachhbharat@gov.in](mailto:swachhbharat@gov.in).

