

Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen



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Swachhata Pakhwada Activities (May, 2024)

Ministry of Labour and Employment

- The team undertook an exhaustive exercise to identify violators responsible for littering and spitting in the office premises, which was done through reviewing of CCTV footage.
- The office premises including the corridors/ washrooms and storage spaces of Shram Shakti Bhawan were cleaned and inspected by the floor in-charge.
- A sanitation pledge ceremony was held with officers and staff that was chaired by the Secretary (L&E).

Ministry of Science & Technology

- The inauguration of Swachhata Pakhwada was done through an oath taking ceremony. The Ministry undertook a deep cleaning exercise that ensured disposal of obsolete, and un-serviceable repair items. They also celebrated the National Technology Day on May 11.
- There was an inter division and inter section Swachhata competition held in Department of Science & Technology (DST) in the month.
- The team ensured the removal of garbage from the office premises and facilitated the cleaning of pavement area outside the premises that included the PWD Road adjoining area.

Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region

- All rooms were equipped with separate dustbins to segregate wet and dry waste.
- The Swachhata pledge was administered by Secretary, Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER) which was followed by extensive cleaning of rooms and all office premises.

Ministry of Power

- Placement of dustbins for dry and wet waste in Raghunathpur office.
- Employees engaged in voluntary shramdaan activities at CO, Gurugram and RECIPMT by undertaking office cleaning exercises.
- The team engaged in distribution of cotton bags in the Andal market to sensitize the public on plastic pollution under the Slogan: Our land: Our future. The NHPC also held general awareness talks on prevention of single use polythene bag amongst local people through Nukkad Natak at schools/AWCs.
- The team ensured cleanliness drives and awareness camps on pre and post mensuration period and HIV awareness. Installation of Incinerator and distribution of sanitary napkins.



Lok Sabha polls: Kerala sets a model in following **Green Protocol**

'Garbage-free polls' a success in Kerala

TRIVANDRUM: Kerala has set a model for India by implementing "green protocol" and strictly following prescribed waste disposal methods during the national election season.

The world's largest elections began on April 19 and were staggered into seven phases. The southern state voted in the second phase on

The state's authorities responsible for dispos ing of the refuse said they had "successfully achieved" the 'garbage-free polls' target in all

20 constituencies. Suchitwa Mission, the state's sanitation au-thority, had published procedures to be followed strictly by campaigners and election officials

before electioneering commences. Right from the start of the campaign, all stakeholders used recycled materials, and they drastically restricted single-use materials, including plastics.

Soonafter the campaign concluded, the saniation workers collected the leftover campaign materials from their source and handed them over to scientific disposal centres. Steps have also been taken to ensure clean

polling. In the state capital, Trivandrum, bio-

polling, in the state capital, invandrum, bio-toilets have been set up in places with more polling stations. All polling stations in the state used elec-tronic vating machines with a vater-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT), which were shifted to high-security strongrooms until the count-

Activities have also begun establishing



and bottle booths on the Mar Ivanios College campus, where they will be kept for over a

In northernmost Kasaragod, in addition to

installing two types of bins in all polling booths, Suchitwa Mission assigned two of its Green Army members to supervise each booth. An awareness campaign titled "Cast Vote by procedures to be followed strictly by campaigners and election officials before the polls commenced. Ashraf Padanna

Not Defeating Nature" was organised in Malappuram. In addition, 25 centres in the district were made model polling booths.

kad to monitor the activities of HKS members on a constituency basis. The green protocol topic was also included in the training for polling officers in the district. In Kozhikode, Suchitwa Mission coordinated the garbage restriction activities during the campaign by deploying 4,000 green activists. Ashraf Padanna

As voters in Kerala were all set to go polls to elect their representatives in the Lok Sabha on Friday (April 26), the state had set a model for the country by effectively implementing green protocol and waste disposal methods in all the 20 constituencies during election campaigns, successfully achieving the target of 'garbage-free polls'.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer in Kerala in collaboration with the Suchitwa Mission had brought out a handbook on the procedures to be followed strictly by the campaigners and election officials before the commencement of electioneering.

Right from the start of the campaign, recycled materials were used by all stakeholders apart from drastically restricting single-use materials including plastics. No sooner had the campaign ended, that the leftover campaign materials were collected from their source and handed over to scientific disposal centers with the cooperation of Haritha Karma Sena members (HKS) and the sanitation workers.

Steps were also taken to ensure clean conduct of polling. In the state capital, bio toilets had been set up in places where more polling stations exist. Moreover, activities were initiated to establish biodegradable and non-degradable bins and bottle booths on Mar Ivanios College campus where the EVM machines were kept for more than a month. In northernmost Kasaragod, apart from installing two types of bins in all polling booths, Suchitwa Mission assigned two HKS members in each booth for supervision. An awareness campaign titled 'Cast Vote by Not Defeating Nature' was organised in Malappuram, besides making 25 polling booths in the district as model polling booths. Nodal officers were appointed in Palakkad to monitor the activities of HKS members on constituency basis. Green protocol topic was included in the training for polling officers in the district.

In Kozhikode, during the campaign, Suchitwa Mission coordinated the garbage restriction activities in association with NSS by deploying 4,000 green activists. A total of 20 booths,



including one each in the Blocks under Kozhikode and Vadakara constituencies and one in corporation/municipality limit were made functional as per the green protocol.

In Wayanad, one HKS member was responsible per booth while green election training was given to nodal officers in Thrissur constituency besides conducting awareness campaign for political parties.

The activities in Ernakulam included green booths under Block Panchayats, wall picture campaign, documentary screenings, flash mob, green booths in party offices, digital posters and bicycle rally.

In Alappuzha, the District Collector handed over a kit containing reusable steel bottle, cloth bag and green protocol handbook to candidates, who filed nominations. Besides, two polling booths each in all municipalities in the district were made green booths.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Squad in coordination with Election Anti-defacement Squad reported violations in Kottayam regarding the use of disallowed campaign materials. State Chief Electoral Officer Shri Sanjay Kaul inaugurated the green election campaign organized by Suchitwa Mission in association with district administration in Idukki. In Pathanamthitta, the District Enforcement Squad conducted inspections in printing shops regarding banned flexes.

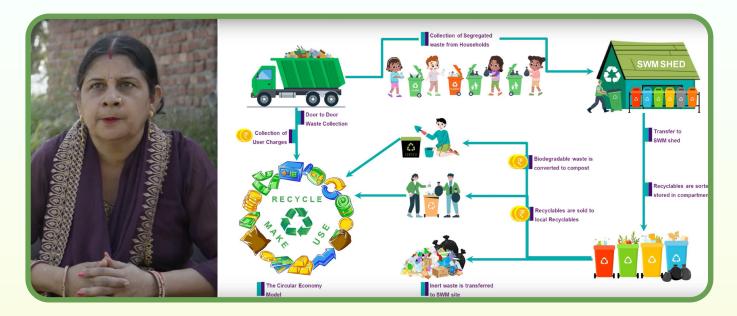
In Kollam, District Collector flagged off the bicycle rally organised by the District Cycling Association along with various athletic associations to spread the message of green election.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Green Protocol Compliance Doubts and Answers was prepared in collaboration with the Suchitwa Mission and Haritha Keralam Missio that guided stakeholders on using eco-friendly materials during the electioneering to minimize polluting garbage being generated.

Significantly, the elections held when the state government is aligned with the massive'Malinya Muktam Nava Keralam' campaign and a slew of other big-ticket schemes like the Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWM).

To know more, reach out to: Abraham Thomas Renjith, Program Officer Suchitwa Mission atrmsw@gmail.com

Transforming Waste in Haryana: A Village's Journey with Meena Kumari



Let's journey into the heart of Kalka tehsil, where Maranwala village lies nestled within the Panchkula district of Haryana, home to roughly 4,000 people. Beyond mere numbers, within these humble streets, a beacon of change shines brightly. Meet Ms. Meena, a woman of unwavering determination, the driving force behind a self-help group registered under the Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission.

In 2016, Maranwala faced a crisis – filthy streets and no proper waste management system in place. Meena, armed with courage, sprang into action. She initiated door-to-door solid waste collection, renting a tractor trolley and assembling a team of one driver and two waste collectors. Every day, she traversed the village, reaching 100–150 households, offering her vital service.

Despite the challenges, Meena's resolve only strengthened. With the support of her SHG group, she took a bank loan to purchase a second-hand tractor at an interest of 1%. Meena meticulously organized her team to sort waste, distinguishing between biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials. With no shed available, her rooftop transformed into a bustling recycling centre, where plastics, steel, cloth, and other recyclables found new purpose.

As the venture grew, so did Meena's outreach. She diligently sold plastic at Rs. 20 per kg, glass at Rs. 2 per kg, steel roof sheets at Rs. 25 per kg, and more. Composting from biodegradable waste became another stream of income for her group. Meena's self-help group adopted a circular economy model, charging households and commercial establishments Rs. 50 for their indispensable services.

Initially, the village resisted change. However, with Meena's tenacity and the support of the Sarpanch and other leaders, over 80% of the village now willingly pay for these essential services. Meena stands tall as a testament to the power of grassroots efforts, showcasing how waste management in villages can be transformed, paving the way for a sustainable circular economy.

Click here to watch the full story

To know more, reach out to: Abhishek Sharma at drd@hry.nic.in

SWACHHATA AMACHAR

Empowering Communities: The Inspiring Journey of Lamu Doma Bhutia in Lingtam Phadamchen, Sikkim



Nestled amidst the tranquil landscapes of East Sikkim, Lingtam Phadamchen village underwent a remarkable metamorphosis under the leadership of Lamu Doma Bhutia, affectionately known as the "Swachhata Shayogi" or the Cleanliness Champion. Her tireless endeavors, coupled with the support of the Rural Development Department (RDD), propelled the village towards sustainable development and holistic well-being.

At the core of this transformation lay the establishment of a Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU), facilitated by RDD's provision of a garbage baling compressor machine. Recognising the urgent need for waste management solutions, Lamu Doma Bhutia spearheaded the initiative, fostering a sense of collective responsibility among the villagers.

However, Lamu Doma Bhutia realized that genuine progress extended beyond mere waste management. She acknowledged the importance of addressing broader community needs, including menstrual hygiene management. Through educational initiatives and awareness campaigns, she dismantled the stigma surrounding menstrual health, empowering women, and fostering overall well-being in Lingtam Phadamchen.

The PWMU emerged as a cornerstone of the village's economic sustainability. Under Lamu Doma Bhutia's guidance, the unit became self-sustaining, creating employment opportunities for locals, especially women. The village flourished as kitchen waste was transformed into compost, enriching agricultural practices, and generating additional income streams for enthusiastic farmers.

The impact of Lamu Doma Bhutia's initiatives resonated beyond Lingtam Phadamchen, inspiring neighbouring communities to embrace similar models of sustainable development. The village blossomed into a clean, prosperous enclave, showcasing the transformative power of grassroot initiatives and community engagement.

Through her unwavering dedication, Lamu Doma Bhutia elevated Lingtam Phadamchen to unprecedented heights, leaving behind a legacy of environmental stewardship and social empowerment. Her journey epitomises the profound impact of individuals committed to fostering positive change in their communities, one initiative at a time.

To know more, reach out to: Sunil Pradhan, Officer on special duty at osdsbmg.4@gmail.com

Fueling Change: The Gobar Gas Project in Gurhet Village, Jharkhand



When you arrive at Gurhet Village, nestled beside the picturesque hill of Sitagarh, you're greeted by the community-run Gobar Gas plant, which has transformed the lives of 25 families, leading them towards prosperity. This endeavor is the result of the collective efforts of local farmers, who recognised the potential of cow dung beyond its traditional use as fertiliser, harnessing it for power generation.

The plant provides free gas to all households in the village, generating significant savings for each family. Previously, households had to purchase costly cylinders every month, amounting to around Rs. 1,200, lasting only 25 days. Constructed at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh, the plant sits on land generously donated by one of the beneficiaries, made possible through the dedication of villagers, government officials, and the NGO, Sanchalak, who meticulously educated the community on the project's intricacies.

Ujala Mahila Samiti is another entity that has been working on IEC and BCC activities in the community, engaging them on the proper use and operation and maintenance of Gobar Gas plant. Through their monthly discussions that are attended by SBM(G) officials and block level representatives, they focus on plant functionality and maintenance.

A committee oversees the production and distribution of gas to the 25 households, with supply available for two hours in the morning and evening. This initiative has reduced the community's reliance on wood, coal, and LPG gas for cooking, with beneficiaries noting the time-saving benefits of cooking on Gobar Gas.



The implementation of this scheme is through an NGO that falls under the state mission for Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Looking ahead, the community aims to introduce a modest user fee of Rs. 300 within the next three years, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the programme through community involvement and support.

To know more, reach out to: Azad Hussain, State Consultant- IEC & HRD, Directorate of SBM(G), Jharkhand at sbmg.jhar@gmail.com or at azadgarhwa@gmail.com

Kerala's Innovative Leap: Transforming Tourism with Swachhata Green Leaf Rating System



Kerala, renowned for its natural beauty and cultural richness, continues to pioneer innovative approaches in fostering responsible tourism. Building upon the foundation of the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) system, initially introduced by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Kerala has elevated its efforts to ensure widespread adoption and implementation.

The SGLR system, a collaborative effort between the DDWS and the Ministry of Tourism, was launched earlier to uphold sanitation standards and redefine the perception of responsible tourism. However, Kerala's proactive approach has taken this initiative one step higher, introducing a user-friendly online platform to streamline the self-assessment process for hospitality facilities.

With the newly introduced online system, hospitality facilities can now register and create their accounts, simplifying the self-assessment process. Upon successful login using unique credentials, users are redirected to a personalized dashboard. Here, they can easily access the assessment rating section by clicking on the designated button, 'Get Assessment Rating'.

The rating page allows users to mark their scores according to the assessment ranking format provided by DDWS. Through a careful selection of 'YES' or 'NO' options, facilities can accurately

assess their compliance with sanitation standards. Once the entries under the three main categories of SGLR are completed, users can submit their self-assessment directly through the portal with a simple click of the submit button.

This innovative system introduces three levels of login – state level, district level, and user level – ensuring a comprehensive and transparent evaluation process. Facilities can submit their applications, which are then verified by district-level verification committees. The marks provided by the verification team are considered for the ranking of facilities, ensuring a fair and objective assessment process.

Moreover, the system facilitates public user registration, empowering hospitality facilities to actively participate in the self-assessment process. Through self-registration, users can create accounts and take ownership of their assessment journey, contributing to a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

Kerala's proactive approach in implementing this user-friendly online system underscores its commitment to promoting responsible tourism and ensuring the highest standards of sanitation in the hospitality sector. By leveraging technology to simplify the self-assessment process, Kerala aims to drive widespread adoption of the SGLR system and pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future for its tourism industry.

In conclusion, Kerala's innovative leap in introducing an online self-registration and assessment platform marks a significant milestone in its journey towards promoting responsible and sustainable tourism. Through collaborative efforts and proactive initiatives, Kerala continues to lead by example, setting new benchmarks for sanitation standards in the hospitality sector.

To know more, reach out to: Abraham Thomas Renjith, Program Officer Suchitwa Mission atrmsw@gmail.com

SWACHHATA AMACHAR

Enhancing Safety and Dignity: Swachhagrahi Training in Raipur



The Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a two-day residential Training of Trainers (ToT) on May 9-10, 2024, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The training focused on the safety and dignity of sanitation workers engaged in the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) in Raipur. These sanitation workers, known as Swachhagrahis, are mostly members of women self-help groups (SHGs).

The training aimed to sensitize over one lakh women Swachhagrahis on their safety and dignity, the importance of using personal protective equipment (PPE), and the various welfare schemes offered by the government. The event witnessed participation from 55 district and block coordinators, district consultants, and block coordinators covering all 33 districts of the state.

Participants learnt about the various social, economic, and safety challenges sanitation workers face daily and developed action plans to improve the working conditions of the Swachhagrahis.

Ms. Chandan Sanjay Tripathi, the Mission Director of SBM-G, Chhattisgarh, inaugurated the training. She emphasized the importance of training all Swachhagrahis under SBM-G and urged participants to ensure the reach of government schemes, health check-ups, and other health benefits. She recounted a field visit where a Swachhagrahi, engaged in solid waste segregation, experienced continuous itching despite bathing after her work. This incident highlighted the urgent need for this training.

Mr. Job Zachariah, Chief of the UNICEF Field Office in Chhattisgarh, stressed the significance of improving sanitation workers' lives by enhancing their work environments and livelihood opportunities, linking them to various social protection schemes.

The training sessions, facilitated by experts from UNICEF partner Samarthan, the Directorate of Health Services, UNICEF's WASH-CCES team, and State consultants of SBM-G, covered a range of topics aimed at promoting the holistic well-being and professional growth of sanitation workers.

To know more, reach out SBM(G), Chhatisgarh at sbmg.cg@gov.in or to Rupesh Rathore, SBM(G) State Coordinator at rupeshrathore2000in@gmail.com

Voice from the State: Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Mission Director Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

In a pioneering move, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration mandated the use of 8-10% plastic waste in all road construction projects as of January 10, 2019. This progressive policy highlighted our commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation. By integrating plastic waste into road construction, we addressed the dual challenges of plastic waste management and infrastructure development.

Over the past few years, we have made significant strides in this endeavour. Our method involves using 8-10% shredded plastic waste as an additive in bituminous mixes, which enhances the durability and longevity of our roads. The data from 2021 to 2024 illustrates our progress: In 2021-22, we used 14,146 kg of plastic waste to construct

18.76 km of roads. This increased to 16,087 kg for 24.64 km in 2022-23, and a remarkable 17,070 kg for 131.99 km in 2023-24. This substantial increase, particularly in road length in 2023-24, demonstrates our significant scale-up in operations.

The use of plastic in road construction offers multiple benefits, especially suited to our geographical and environmental context. Roads constructed with plastic additives are more resistant to wear and tear, exhibiting better resistance to water damage, which is crucial given our heavy monsoon rains. This initiative not only helps manage our plastic waste, transforming an environmental pollutant into a valuable resource but also reduces the volume of waste that would otherwise end up in landfills or the ocean. Moreover, incorporating plastic into road construction can reduce overall costs. The plastic-bitumen mix requires less maintenance over time, leading to savings on repair and resurfacing. By recycling plastic waste, we reduce the carbon footprint associated with road construction, aligning with global and national sustainability goals and contributing to the fight against climate change.

While our progress has been commendable, we face several challenges. The collection, segregation, and processing of plastic waste requires systematic efforts and robust infrastructure. Continuous research and development are necessary to optimize the plastic-bitumen mix for varying climatic and load conditions. Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding this initiative towards achieving Zero Waste Islands. Plans are underway to increase plastic waste collection through community engagement and awareness programs. We are also exploring collaborations with research institutions and private sector partners to enhance the technical aspects of plastic road construction.

Our initiative to use waste plastic in road construction is a testament to innovative thinking in addressing environmental and infrastructural challenges. By turning plastic waste into a resource, we are setting a precedent for sustainable development. This approach not only contributes to creating robust infrastructure but also aligns with broader environmental goals, making it a model worth emulating across other regions. As we continue to develop and refine these practices, the support and participation of the community remain crucial. Together, we can build a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SWACHHATA AMACHAR

Tamil Nadu's Innovative Approach to Plastic Waste Management



Introduction

Plastic pollution has become a global crisis, but Tamil Nadu stands out for its proactive and innovative approach to managing plastic waste. This story highlights Tamil Nadu's commitment to effective plastic waste management (PWM) through community-driven initiatives, focusing on the transformative efforts of various panchayats across the state.

Pioneering Initiatives

In 2020, Mudikandanallur Panchayat in Mayiladuthurai District led a groundbreaking initiative by establishing a district-level Plastic Shredding Unit. With an investment of Rs. 9,79,900/- in machinery and infrastructure, local sanitation workers and Self-Help Group (SHG) members collected and shredded 34,969 kg of plastic waste, generating Rs. 12,87,926/- in revenue within a year. This effort not only reimbursed the initial investment but also set a benchmark for sustainable waste management.

Under SBM-G Phase II, Tamil Nadu has embraced comprehensive PWM solutions, with funding of Rs. 16 lakhs per block. Inspired by the success of Mudikandanallur, the state has vigorously pursued similar initiatives.

Tamil Nadu's Plastic Waste Management Process

Tamil Nadu's structured approach to plastic waste management begins with households segregating waste at the source. Dedicated Thooimai Kaavalars collect this waste door-to-door using specially designated vehicles. The collected waste is then taken to segregation and storage sheds maintained by panchayats, where secondary segregation separates plastic waste from other materials.

At the block level, plastic waste management units (PWMUs) process and recycle collected waste into valuable resources. Recyclable plastics are repurposed through partnerships with local kabadiwalas, while non-recyclable plastics undergo further processing, including dust removal and shredding, for use in road construction.

Components of Plastic Waste Management Units

Central to Tamil Nadu's plastic waste management units is the plastic shredder, capable of processing 100-125 kg/hr. Optional dust removers enhance the purity of the shredded plastic, ensuring high-quality end products. Some PWMUs with cement industry linkages also use baling machines to compact waste, and weighing machines to measure received and shredded plastic.

Operation and Maintenance

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and panchayats are responsible for the upkeep of PWMUs, fostering community ownership and promoting economic empowerment through local engagement and employment opportunities.

Achievements and Future Plans

Tamil Nadu's commitment to environment sustainability is reflected in its achievements. By adopting a cluster-based approach, the state has established 315 functional PWMUs out of 388 proposed units. The Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj announced plans for constructing 1,500 km of roads using shredded plastic in 2023-24, building on the success of approximately 1,623 km of roads laid using 730 MT of shredded plastic in previous years.

Economic Viability and Contractor Compliance

The administration's commitment to funding shredded plastic for road construction ensures its success. The IRC code IRC SP 98:2013 permits the use of up to 8% plastic in road construction as a bitumen replacement. Bitumen costs above Rs. 45 per kg, while shredded plastic is provided at Rs. 35 per kg. This economic incentive, coupled with mandatory contractor compliance, ensures widespread adoption of plastic waste in road construction.

Conclusion

Tamil Nadu's approach to PWM exemplifies innovation, community engagement, and sustainability. Through strategic partnerships, low-cost technologies, and community-driven initiatives, the state has emerged as a leader in waste management. Their journey offers valuable insights for shaping effective environmental policies and practices nationwide, paving the way for a greener future.

To know more, reach out to: Assistant Director (SBM), Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj at tnsbmg@gmail.com



World Earth Day Celebrations

On April 22, 2024, HDFC Bank and Centre for Environment Education (CEE), supported by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen, celebrated World Earth Day at 17 locations across India, focusing on plastic waste management.

Significant Achievements:

- The initiative saw the collection of 5,413 kg of dry and plastic waste through six clean-up drives and campaigns. Additionally, 33.11 metric tons of dry and plastic waste were collected at 9 Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs).
- Community Involvement: Over 1,900 stakeholders and community members participated, emphasizing waste reduction and environmental sustainability through activities like planting 100 saplings.
- Innovative Handwashing Solutions: More than 900 SATO Taps were distributed to promote hygiene and water conservation. The project aims to distribute 1,00,000 taps by June 2024.
- Educational Efforts: Sixteen awareness sessions were conducted, educating communities on climate change, sustainability, and the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
- As a post-mobilization activity of World Earth Day, the 9 project locations in the span of another 7 days (23-29 April, 2024) collected 276.37 MT of dry & plastic waste (out of which 55% is plastic). Out of this, 8.197 MT is wet waste collected in Bhubaneshwar.



Several terms related to Swachh Bharat Mission are hidden in the figure.

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To contribute to the next issue of the **Swachhata Samachar**, share your submission before the 15th of every month to swachhbharat@gov.in



 Office of the Joint Secretary & Mission Director, SBM-G Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shak Government of India.

4th Floor, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Phone: 011-24362192 | Email: js-sbm@gov.in